Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 26 | FRIDAY JANUARY 30, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Which alternative energy do you think would work best in the CNMI: geothermal, OTEC, nuclear, wind, solar, or biomass?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

122 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Jobless Report
The government will provide a snapshot of the battered labor market Thursday.

BUSINESS...Page 20

Waxen Michelle
A wax museum is adding Michelle Obama to its collection of famous figures in Washington.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 27

Stimulus bill packs 'tens of millions' for territories—Kilili

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI will receive tens of millions of dollars as part of the economic stimulus package passed by the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday, U.S. Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan (I-MP) said.

The House passed the $819 billion American Recovery and Investment Act by a vote of 244 to 188. None of the House's 178 Republican members voted yes.

The bill now heads to the Senate where it is expected to undergo considerable changes.

For the CNMI, the package

See STIMULUS on Page 4

RELATED NEWS
House OKs $819B stimulus bill with GOP opposition. **PAGE 22**

Ex-gov Babauta to seek top post anew

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former governor Juan N. Babauta disclosed yesterday his decision to run for governor in November.

Babauta

After months of evading questions about his political plans, Babauta finally confirmed his desire to reclaim the local government's top seat.

However, when pressed on his choice for running mate, the former governor played coy, saying the announcement of his choice for lieutenant governor and committee-to-elect members will be known Saturday evening at his Middle Road residence.

There have been information about teaming up with his former senior policy adviser, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, for the second top position. Babauta neither

See EX-GOV on Page 4

IN FEDERALIZATION LAWSUIT

NMI asks for dismissal, says US reply 'too long'

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawyers for the CNMI have asked the Washington D.C. Federal District Court to dismiss the U.S. government's latest reply to the federalization lawsuit because the United States' brief exceeded the number of pages allowed.

On Friday, lawyers for the U.S. government filed their latest motion to dismiss the federalization lawsuit. The reply was 33 pages long— eight more than the 25-page maximum. The United States failed to ask for a page extension beforehand.

"The length of defendants' reply grossly exceeds the limits imposed by Local Civ. R. 7(e)," the

See NMI on Page 4

La Fiesta now up for lease

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The eerily vacant La Fiesta property in San Roque, which is costing the government at least $200,000 in lease payment every year, is now up for "lease, development or revitalization."

Since the former mall shut its doors in 2004, the property has become a wasteland—glass walls and floors are now broken, metal railings are now rusty, paint has peeled off, plants had dried out, and decorative structures are beyond repair, among other structural problems. The government has not earned a single cent

See LA FIESTA on Page 4

The vacant La Fiesta property in San Roque has become a wasteland—glass walls and floors are now broken, metal railings are now rusty, paint has peeled off, plants have dried out, and decorative structures are beyond repair, among other structural problems.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

MVA cuts budget for Russia, China markets. **PAGE 2**
$8.5K needed for sick worker's airfare alone. **PAGE 14**

Local

MVA cuts budget for Russia, China markets

Promotional campaigns may stop in June

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority slashed its promotional and advertising budget for both its Russia and China markets in anticipation of the federal takeover of local labor and immigration systems this coming June.

Perry Tenorio, the agency's managing director, disclosed that nearly half of funds appropriated for China this fiscal year was reduced as a result of across-the-board slash on all agency's budget, including essential departments like MVA.

Due to a downturn in revenue and collection, the governor ordered a 5.5 percent reduction on all agencies' budget.

For MVA, Tenorio said, this means an adjustment of nearly $600,000 from the $5.9 million under the continuing resolution to $5.6 million, which now reflects the 5.5 percent cut.

Tenorio revealed that for FY 2009, the agency cut by half the advertising fund for China activities—from $460,000 to only $248,000. For Russia, the agency is looking into cutting the existing $70,000 annual promotional budget, which is almost the same funding provided last year.

CNMI has no offshore offices in both markets and funds are used for advertising activities intended for the two destinations.

He said these promotional activities may stop prior to the implementation of federalization, depending on the decision of the federal government.

"We will continue the promotional activities in China and Russia up until the implementation of federalization on June 1st. We just have to see if there's any decision of DHS [Department of Homeland Security] to delay implementation and possibly work with another six months," he said.

Although the federal government will still allow entry of these tourists provided they have valid U.S. visas, Tenorio admitted that the "process is never that easy."

He said MVA also made some adjustments to staffing where only two key positions are allowed to be replaced: the chief accountant and the agency's general manager.

Despite the budget constraints, the managing director said they did not enforce a reduction and layoff of manpower. MVA is permitted to have 36 full-time employees.

"With this new advisement on budget, technically we need to cut down $582,000 from our operating funds…and we took it from those areas," he told *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday.

He assured employees their job security through the end of the fiscal year, which is Sept. 30, 2009.

"We did not reduce the number of our personnel and we did not cut their salary. …We're still trying to maintain our staffing pattern until end of FY 2009," he said, adding that MVA will not add new personnel as a cost-saving effort.

The managing director admitted that the reduced advertising amount is "significant."

However, he said the decision is also in consideration of the pending federalization in June where its entry visa program will no longer applicable.

In 2008, the CNMI welcomed 27,000 Chinese visitors and about 7,000 Russian tourists. The figures represent 90 percent of the total visitors arrival on island from January to December last year.

Anticipated economic loss from the two markets is $109 million.

Diabetes: Are you in Control?
'Steps to prevent and control diabetes'
Step 1
Learn about diabetes
Step 2
Know your diabetes ABCs
A for the A1C test (A-one-C)
B for Blood pressure
C for Cholesterol
Step 3
Manage your diabetes
Eat healthy foods and stay physically active
Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water a day
Eliminate Tobacco use
Step 4
Get routine care
Make an appointment to see a doctor
Get a routine eye and dental exam
Get a flu shot once a year
Remember, you CAN prevent diabetes.
To learn more, please contact the Division of Public Health
Diabetes Prevention & Control Program at 664-4030/1

AKIBA
SUSUPE
Flea
Market
Susupe Downtown Society
Marianas Business Center • Saipan Grand Hotel
Gentle Brook Cafe • Big Boyz Marine
Biz Aid Saipan • Pacific Creations • 360 Restaurant
Buy more!
Spend Less!
Come and visit the Island's most popular Flea market every Saturday from 7:00am to 3:00pm in front of Marianas Business Plaza.
We are also expanding the flea market area to cater those who are still interested to sell and dispose their usable items.
For inquiries regarding space rental, please call
234-7626/234-8088
and look for Divine.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Theft of diving gear

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on any person(s) involved in the theft of several diving gear by the northern side of Micro Beach Pavilion. Based on the police report, this case was reported on Jan. 16, 2009, at 3:46pm.

According to the victim in this case, the victim and a friend went swimming at Micro Beach around 12pm. When they returned at about 2:30pm, the victim discovered his diving gear missing from the table where he had left it. Police were called. Stolen property included a mask, snorkel, fins, wetsuit, regulator, compass, and a depth finder watch. Anyone having information about this crime may call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. The community may also call Crime Stoppers if they wish to provide details of any other theft cases or crimes that they may know about. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

Agriculture's $8K budget hurts services

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Agriculture's annual budget of only $8,000 for its operations has been hurting services to farmers and ranchers.

Agriculture director Richard B. Seman said yesterday the division has temporarily stopped lending tractors to commercial farmers because none of the three tractors is working.

There's no money to buy the parts and even if they are fixed, they may not be used because of lack of funds to buy fuel to run them.

One of the tractors is over 30 years old, while the other two are over 25 years old.

"They've been breaking down more frequently. There's more stuff for us to buy if the parts are broken. … It's come to a point where we need to replace them," Seman told *Saipan Tribune*.

One tractor costs $55,000 to $70,000, which is much higher than the division's annual operational budget of $8,000.

"With this $8,000, we buy fuel, lubricant, office and operational supplies, and we need to run four offices—animal industry, plant industry, plant and animal quarantine, and soil and water conservation," he said.

Farmers used to borrow Agriculture's tractor and other equipment for $20 an hour. This service was stopped last year due to broken parts and high fuel cost.

"We need at least $100,000 for all our programs. The fortunate thing is, the division doesn't pay for utilities because the Department [of Lands and Natural Resources] pays for it," he said, adding that personnel budget has also been tight.

The division provides services to farmers to enhance the production and cultivation of locally produced crops. It provides farm equipment, farm plots and propagation crops to farmers for a nominal fee. In partnership with Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, it helps farmers in producing quality crops.

Agriculture, which has 40 employees, also conducts surveys and assessments of farm lots, provides assistance in times of national disasters, particularly in assessing damage to crops and livestock, provides veterinary services, and monitors level of ranching.

Other Agriculture programs including Forestry rely on federal funds, which eases the operational budget shortfall. Through federal grants, the division has been able to buy supplies like computers.

Seman said the Parole Office and the Office of Probation help them cope with funding shortage by having inmates or those under probation required to do community service work at Agriculture.

Rope recovered among remains found in Marpi

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A rope was among the evidence recovered at the scene where the remains of a person believed to be the missing Filipino surveyor, Alex M. Matubis, were found.

A police officer confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* that investigators found a rope at the scene where the skeletal remains were spotted by a farmer in a secluded farm in Marpi last Saturday.

The officer, who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity, refused to elaborate exactly where the rope was found "as investigation is ongoing in the case."

Initial reports indicated that the person probably committed suicide by hanging but investigators are still not making a conclusion as the cause of death has yet to be determined.

Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch on Wednesday said they will consult Guam's chief medical examiner, Dr. Aurelio Espinola, to determine the cause of death of the remains.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that detectives are still examining the evidence taken from the scene.

"At this time, we can only release information that will not hinder the investigation of the case," Ogumoro said.

The 47-year-old Matubis was reported missing since July 30 last year. His company-owned service pickup was recovered near Kalabera Cave last Aug. 19.

The farm where the remains were found is about a 10-minute drive west of Kalabera Cave, according to DPS.

XEROX COPY
*B & W – 15¢ each
*COLOR – 75¢ each
RAINBOW COLOR • 233-5020
email: rainbowcolor@pticom.com
*Condition apply. Inquiry within

Enroll now!
Let's Learn Japanese
+a BEST APPROACH LANGUAGE SCHOOL
New Beginner class start: Feb 9 (Mon)
Start time: 7:45pm, Mon & Thu Class
New Conversation class start: Feb 3 (Tue)
Start time: 6:00pm, Tue & Fri Class.
More information call 234-1110/483-1863
2F Tun Kiku's Bldg., Garapan Middle Road, Saipan

"One of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region"
— Retinal Physician Magazine, April 2008
Come see!
Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

Meeting your eye care needs with excellence.
One-Hour Glasses • Contacts • Medicine, Surgery • Laser
Dr. Mark Robertson, OD
Magna Cum Laude
Dr. David Khorram, MD
"America's Top Ophthalmologists"
Walk-Ins Welcome
Yes! We accept Aetna, Staywell, Medicaid/Medicare, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Tricare, and more
235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan, Across 13 Fishermen Monument • MarianasEye.com

Welcome to
IT&E
Life in Motion
LAUNCH SPECIALS

Offer valid thru January 31, 2009
*Some conditions apply • 300 min More Plan or up • 1 year agreement • Single Plans only • New Accounts only • While supplies last
Smartphone must purchase $19.95 Unlimited Data Plan • * Must sign up for $9.95 Unlimited Data Plan
FOUR Islands....ONE Vision
THE FASTEST NEXT GENERATION MOBILE BROADBAND
FIRST and the FASTEST in Saipan, Tinian, Rota & Guam
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

Ex-boat crew sues owners over finger amputation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former crew of a boat that transports divers to diving spots on Saipan filed a lawsuit in federal court yesterday over the amputation of his left index finger due to an accident aboard the vessel.

Norris Osiik Omengkar sued the Marianas Aqua Sports Marine Corp., APRA Dive and Marine Sports Inc., and five unnamed co-defendants, for negligence.

Omengkar, through lawyer Bruce Berline, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold the defendants liable to pay him damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Omengkar was hired by Marianas Aqua Sports as a seaman assigned to serve as a member of the crew aboard the vessel *Splash II.*

Berline said APRA and Marianas Aqua Sports are the owners or operators of the vessel.

The lawyer said that on Oct. 11, 2008, the vessel was used by the defendants to transport 10 people, including Omengkar, to a dive spot in the waters near Managaha Island.

That day, Berline said, plaintiff's duties required him to tie the boat to a mooring located in the waters near Managaha Island in order to allow the passengers to begin their dive.

While placing the mooring line on the boat's cleat, the mooring line tightened, trapping Omengkar's left index finger.

The finger was severely lacerated.

"Medical personnel attempted to save plaintiff's finger through various surgical procedures; however, those procedures were unsuccessful and the distal phalanx of plaintiff's left index finger was amputated," Berline said.

The lawyer alleged that at the time the mooring line caught and lacerated Omengkar's finger, the boat was overcrowded with people and or equipment.

Burglars rob CK house of $20K cash, checks, jewelry

A house in Chalan Kanoa was recently burglarized and over $20,000 in cash, checks, jewelry and other items were stolen.

The house was occupied by three employees of LD Prime Corp., which is engaged in the wholesale business in Gualo Rai.

Gemma Batusin, sales marketing of LD Prime Corp., told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday they are wondering why the Department of Public Safety did not release the burglary report to the media.

Batusin said the burglary happened during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Jan. 19.

She said over $10,000 cash and another $10,000 in checks belonging to LD Prime Corp. were stolen. She said the cash and checks represented the company's collections that weekend.

Joseph Caranto, LD's heavy equipment operator and purchasing manager, was supposed to deposit the cash and checks in the bank, but that Monday was a holiday.

Batusin said she discovered the burglary Monday at 2:30pm when she arrived with her child and noticed the rooms were in disarray.

Also stolen were jewelry worth about $3,000, a camera, a watch, and the company's digital camera, she said.

Batusin said the cash and checks were in a cabinet and the jewelry and other items were in their room.

She said they believe that the person who entered their house was a minor who gained entry through a small opening in the kitchen's window.

Batusin and Caranto urged anyone who has information about the case or the suspect/s to call DPS or Crime Stoppers Program. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

LA FIESTA

From Page 1

from the property since 2004.

The Fitial administration now wants to make the property, located across Palms Resort in San Roque, "productive again."

"We seek private sector development proposals for the productive use of the property for the CNMI's benefit. We are open to any legitimate, lawful and promising business proposal," press secretary Charles P. Reyes told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos and Procurement and Supply director Herman S. Sablan said special consideration will be given to proposals that will develop the La Fiesta property "into a promising and sustainable tourist attraction and entertainment complex."

In the request for proposal, RFP09-SOF-051, Inos and Sablan said the government will consider only those proposals that are serious, legitimate and practical, and which maximize the economic potential of La Fiesta—both short term and long term.

Under the two-page RFP, the lease, redevelopment and revitalization of the La Fiesta property includes upgrading and renovating all existing facilities within the commercial complex.

Interested parties have until Feb.27 to submit their proposals to the office of the Division of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base.

Northern Marianas College purchased the property for $3.5 million in 2003 using federal money from the Office of the Governor, but turned it over to the Executive Branch under Babauta's term. The government now pays at least $200,000 a year in lease payments.

The eerily vacant La Fiesta property in San Roque is a shell of its former self. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Reyes said the previous administration's decision to purchase the remaining leasehold interest in the property was "one of the worst and most disastrous financial decisions ever made by a CNMI governor."

"This decision burdens our government with a very substantial, multi-million dollar liability over many years. We are currently obligated to pay at least $200,000 a year in lease payments for this property, which is not generating any income or investment returns. It is a pure liability inherited from the previous Babauta-Benavente administration," he added.

Last year, the Department of Commerce proposed to the CNMI Zoning Board to turn the mall—three corridors of retail space totaling more than 37,000 square meters—into an "adult business park." Prior to that, there were reports that the property would be converted into a casino.

At one point, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. held offices there, while the Northern Marianas College used some parts of the mall for classes.

The La Fiesta Mall was erected in the early 1990s and officially opened in December 1992. The mall had over 60 tenants in the '90s.

In March 2007, Bridge Capital LLC bought interest on the property from the Japanese-owned Coco's Lagoon Development. The CNMI government, which acquired the building in 2004, is now paying Bridge Capital about $200,000 a year for the lease of the idle property.

Bridge Capital, a lending company, is a different entity from Bridge Investment Group, which plans to operate a casino on Tinian.

NMI

From Page 1

lawyers for the CNMI wrote. "It also raises new arguments for the first time, to which the Commonwealth has had no opportunity to respond. Accordingly, the court should strike the reply."

Also, the CNMI lawyers asked the court to schedule a hearing as soon as possible regarding the United States' arguments in their motion to dismiss the suit, which seeks to block the implementation of the Immigration and Nationality Act to federalize local immigration laws. The new law, unless delayed, will go into effect June 1.

For their part, lawyers for the U.S. government said that filing the 33-page brief was not deliberate. It was a mistake made by the undersigned counsel, who consulted the page limit rules several weeks before and thought it was 35, not 25, according to the U.S.' reply. Lawyers for the U.S. did not realize the mistake until the CNMI filed their motion to strike, the motion stated.

However, the U.S. has asked the court to grant a page extension and accept the 33-page reply because, the lawyers said, the CNMI brought up additional arguments in their last reply that was not in the initial complaint.

Pursuant to local rule, the counsel for the United States called the CNMI lawyers before filing the motion asking for the extension, according to the U.S.' motion. When asked to identify the new arguments brought up by the U.S. government, the lawyers for the CNMI declined. During a follow-up phone call, lawyers for the CNMI identified three new arguments, which the U.S. denies, according to the motion.

The United States does not object to setting oral arguments in the case.

EX-GOV

From Page 1

confirmed nor denied the information yesterday.

Deleon Guerrero could not be reached when contacted by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Babauta has yet to mention the platforms of his candidacy and his motivation to run for the office. He said he is reserving it for Saturday's proclamation night.

Babauta first ran for governor under the Republican ticket with Diego Benavente, his former lieutenant governor. Benavente has already made known his decision to also seek the gubernatorial post.

Babauta was elected governor of the CNMI in November 2001, receiving 42 percent of the vote in a four-way race, coming far ahead of his opponents.

In 2005, he sought re-election but was defeated, receiving only 26 percent of the vote to come in third place in a tight four-way race between incumbent Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, Babauta, and Froilan Tenorio, also a former governor.

Babauta's public service career began with his election to a four-year term as senator serving in the fifth and sixth legislatures.

At the end of his term, he was elected as resident representative to the U.S.—a position he served for three four-year terms.

The former governor is the fifth individual to announce his election bid. Others are Fitial, Benavente, former senator and CUC executive director Ramon "Kumoi" Guerrero, and businessman and former lawmaker Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero.

STIMULUS

From Page 1

increases Medicaid caps by 20 percent, increases funding for food stamps and adds infrastructure projects.

Together, the territories will receive more that $4 billion through numerous federal grants such as State Fiscal Stabilization, Technology, Pell Grant awards, Low Income Energy Assistance and Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grants.

The more than $500 million allotted to the territories is spread throughout several federal agencies, providing less flexibility, Sablan said. Because the money is spread throughout the agencies, it is difficult to tell exactly how much the CNMI will receive but there are millions of dollars available, he said.

The territorial delegates had hoped that Department of the Interior money would be distributed to the Office of Insular Affairs for the territories. Money is allocated to other offices within Interior but not to OIA, the delegates noted in letters sent earlier to several lawmakers.

"Unfortunately, because the bill was packaged in a certain way, that didn't happen," Sablan said. He added that the territorial delegates would work to see what changes they can make with the Senate version of the bill.

The delegates' proposal was one of 200 amendments made in the House, of which only a handful was approved, he added.

House Natural Resources Committee chair Nick J. Rahall (D-WV), in a Jan. 16 letter to Rep. David R. Obey, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, said the already-struggling territories are hampered in their ability to fund basic needs due to the economic downturn.

"Our U.S. territories, some of the most scenic, beautiful, and environmentally diverse areas under the American flag, will continue to face obstacles to development due to their remoteness," he wrote. "A separate funding stream dedicated to addressing many other critical and immediate needs would be most beneficial, and I look forward to working with the Committee to garner the support needed to help their growth and expansion."

In another letter, dated Jan. 22, Rahall wrote to House Committee on Appropriations chair Dave Obey and ranking member Jerry Lewis expressing concern than no separate funding was allotted for OIA. Letters were also sent to Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and Sen. Thad Cochran, chairman and ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Sablan, Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna Christensen and American Samoa Delegate Eni Falcomavaega signed the letters as well.

The stimulus package will also help fund education, something families need as the cost of higher education continues to increase, said Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, during a teleconference with reporters before the House vote.

"So we're trying to offset those costs so those family under very serious pressure…are able to keep people in college," Miller said. "We believe this investment is critical, and it's critical in how we emerge in this economic downturn."

Pell grants will increase by $500 to a maximum of $5,350 in 2009 and $5,550 in 2010, under the House-approved package.

The Head Start program will receive $2.1 billion to provide development services for an additional 110,000 children. The AmeriCorp program would also receive $200 million to place approximately 16,000 additional members in national service, helping vulnerable populations and communities during the recession.

NMC board OKs $4.6M budget plan for FY2010

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College has approved a budget submission of $4.6 million for the institution's operation in next fiscal year.

During a special meeting on Wednesday, members adopted to pass the proposal to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial who will recommend the entire appropriation for government instrumentalities to the Legislature.

Cepeda

Records show that the bulk of the budget request—48 percent—is earmarked for NMC's academic programs and services.

The members voted to allocate 43 percent of the total budget for instructional faculty, while 5 percent is appropriated for other academic programs and services.

The other single largest component, 16 percent, is allocated for student services, which include library services, admissions and records, counseling, and activities.

BOR chair Charles V. Cepeda said the new budget is vital for the continuous operation of the institution.

"NMC plays a central role in providing higher educational opportunities, the general and specialized training of our local workforce, and the overall economic health of the CNMI," said Cepeda, adding that the "amount we are seeking allows the college to continue serving the community in these capacities."

According to NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, a lot of work was put in to hammer out the new budget.

"The preparation of the 2010 budget involved an in-depth and critical review of the college's financial needs. …[It] represents the bare minimum that NMC needs to maintain the quality of educational services we offer and to meet accreditation requirements," she said.

NMC confers degrees in elementary education, business, business administration, liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. It also offers several certificate programs and shorter-term programs.

In the deliberations, Fernandez said they also heavily weighed accreditation requirements and some of the positions that they are seeking to fund are those that have been recently identified as critical during the program review and assessment process.

Prior to the submission of the 2010 budget to the NMC BOR, it was reviewed and approved through the college's shared governance process, which involves the collective input of students, faculty, and staff. It was also reviewed by the BOR fiscal committee on Jan. 27.

NMC is among the critical agencies of the government. The budget shortage or the financial instability of the college was among the concerns cited in its accreditation status.

Several positions, including top management posts, were found filled by individuals in acting capacities for many years due to lack of funds.

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges in January 2008 placed the institution on show-cause status. The decision whether NMC will be allowed to continue to operate or not will soon be issued by the accrediting commission.

In the past, the institution sought annual appropriation amounting to $5 million to $6 million when its instructional sites on Rota and Tinian were still operational.

Currently, academic programs on both sites were suspended as well as a number of "inactive" certificate programs on Saipan.

Happy Valentines
"Perfect Couples" Prepaid Deal
Only $99
i425
Lightest PTT Phone
Voice Dialing
USB Connector
Color Display
for two (2) slim & lite i425's with $12.50 airtime load in each phone.
"Open your gift, dear."
-husband
"C'mon, half of that is mine!"
-husband
"NO. I want to wait for Valentine's Day!"
-wife
iCONNECT
Saipan - Guam Office 888.8888 / www.iconnectsaipan.com
Offer good only from January 16, 2009 to February 28, 2009. Conditions apply.

San Antonio names 5 entries to islandwide science contest

First grader Alannah Mae Sablan, 7, shows samples of used paper she recycled into decorative cards and displays that won her the first prize in the San Antonio Elementary School's Science Fair yesterday. Sablan will be representing her school in the islandwide Science Fair on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five entries that obtained the highest grades were selected yesterday as the official representatives of San Antonio Elementary School to the upcoming Public School System Science Fair.

Typically the islandwide event draws over a hundred entries that vie for honors to compete in the Guam competition this year.

Hilda Rios, the school's science fair and health and awareness committee chair, was elated with the turnout of yesterday's event, which saw the participation of nearly 400 students and representatives of government agencies.

For more than five years, San Antonio had been simultaneously holding its science fair and health day to better promote learning and physical activities with the involvement of community members.

At the cafeteria, about 60 mostly individual entries competed in the science fair where participants were asked to demonstrate their projects.

There were four categories in the competition—life science, physical science, nutrition health and medical, and earth and space science.

Adjudged official entries to the islandwide science competition were "Recycling Paper," entered by Alannah Mae C. Sablan, first grade; "Sprouting Carrot Tops" by Paula Mae Francisco, second grade; "Inorganic and organic," entered by Christian Espinosa, second grade; "Sound," entered by Stephen Barro, fourth grade; and "Color Changing Milk," entered by Sina Palacios.

Alannah Sablan was excited about qualifying for the islandwide contest.

"I will do my best…I will explain my project fully and well to the judges," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The first grade champion said it took her awhile to prepare all the materials for her experiment. She amazed judges in her presentation about recycled papers.

Government agencies were also seen providing information to students in celebration of the school's health day.

"We want the kids to learn more…and we can do that by bringing in the community into the campus. The learning and the knowledge they will gain from today's activities will better prepare them for the future," science and health committee head Hilda Rios told *Saipan Tribune*.

Runners-up in the science fair contest were Jerry Olkeriil, Lana Mendiola, Christian Espinosa, Christopher Aninzo, Mae Indalecio, Torinett Marie T. Camacho, Krizel V. Manuzon and Amy J. Liu, Yvonne Indalecio, and Leezle Iglecias.

Among the judges in yesterday's competition were Sybilla Guerrero, Marlon Cabrera, Christy Sablan, Pamela Sablan, Cole Pritchard, Gus Camacho, Tony Benavente, and Merly Yamazaki.

Health day presenters included the Department of Public Health, American Red Cross, Emergency Management Office, Department of Public Safety, NMPASI, NMC-CREES, and Division of Sports and Recreation.

RING IN THE NEW YEAR!

Gung Hei Fat Choy

LG 210G
$50.00 CDMA Postpaid New 12 Month Contract
$99.00 CDMA Prepaid includes $50 prepaid Card
Speakerphone
Voice Dialing
300 Phone Book Capacity

LG MX7000
1.3 MP Camera
Voice Dialing
Calendar
$50.00 CDMA Postpaid New 12 Month Contract
$99.00 CDMA Prepaid includes $50 prepaid Card

Motorola RIZR Z3
2 Megapixel Camera
Speakerphone
Video Calling
Voice Dialing
$75.00 GSM Postpaid New 12 Month Contract

Nokia 6065
Camera
Video
Bluetooth
Speaker phone
$85.00 GSM Postpaid New 12 Month Contract

Motorola Q PDA
Camera
Video
Bluetooth
Web browsing capable
$89.00 New 12 Month Contract CDMA Postpaid Comes with One (1) Month FREE MAX128 Data Service.

HTC TOUCH
T2.0 megapixel camera
Touch screen interface
Video capable
Speakerphone
$185.00 New 12 Month Contract CDMA Postpaid Comes with One (1) Month FREE MAX128 Data Service.

NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC

483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com | Typhoon-Proven
Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONALD BUFTON, Plaintiff,
-v-
SAMUEL RAYBURN, Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 04-0043

FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on October 12, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

1. **Lot No 012 B08**, situated in Calabera, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing 39,297 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 012 B 01, which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 1466 on the 15th of March, 1972.
2. **Tract 22609 (formerly H-65)**, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,845 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2165/74, the original of which was registered June 15, 1976 as Land Registry Document No. 5272.
3. **Tract 22610 (formerly H-65 A)**, Situated in Saipan, Northern Marian Islands, containing an area of 13,558 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2164/74, the original of which was registered June 15, 1976 as Land Registry Document No. 5272.
4. **Lot E.A. 579**, situated in Laualau, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,056 square meters, more or less, being situated in Land Square Seven, Section R, Units u and v, and Land Square Ten, Section 1, Units a and b, as shown on APWO Drawing No. 11411 and 11414 on file with the Clerk of Courts (being all that property conveyed by that Grant of Public Domain from the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to Joaquin I. Pangelinan executed April 18, 1956 and filed April 25, 1956 at the Clerk of Courts).
5. **Tract/Lot No. H-378**, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 27,537 square meters, more or less, as shown on Division of Lands & Surveys Official survey plat no. 2136/89 dated August 10, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 89-2641, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.
6. **Tract/Lot No H-378 "A"**, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,585 square meters, more or less, as shown on Division of Lands & Surveys Official survey plat no. 2136/89 dated August 10, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 89-2641, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.
7. **Lot 001 C 10**, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 9,999 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 01, the original of which was recorded with the Commonwealth Recorder on March 20, 1980, as Document No. 9811.
8. **Lot 001 C 16 (part of original Lot 001 C 06)**, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 14,579 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 04, the original of which was recorded with the Commonwealth Recorder on June 13, 1986, as Document No. 86-1187.
9. **Lot 012 J 13, Parcel "A"**, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, consisting of the northern portion of Lot 012 J 13, and containing an area of 2,319 square meters, more or less.

Date, time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 20, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 20th day of January, 2009.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Scoops ice cream parlor braves uncertain times

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While selling ice cream in a tropical island is a no-brainer, it takes a truly brave company like Transpacific International Inc. to open Foremost Scoops Saipan during these turbulent economic times.

Today marks the ice cream parlor's grand opening. A special celebration and ribbon cutting will start at 6 p.m.

Foremost Scoops is located on Middle Road in Gualo Rai, beside Subway.

Transpacific is banking on the Foremost ice cream brand and Foremost products in general, which have been around the region for well over 50 years, making them a household name recognized by old and new generations.

"The goal of the Foremost Scoops concept is to create an extension of that brand from the home to a gathering place for friends and family. As economic times become more challenging, we hope to offer a little escape by providing an inexpensive yet tasty way to enjoy simple pleasures," Marcos Fong, group executive vice president for Transpacific International Inc., told *Saipan Tribune*.

Investment into the concept was more than simply financial.

"Foremost Scoops Saipan is just the second outlet of this retail concept and a lot of work by many people was needed to make it happen. Everything from the décor all the way to the menu offerings were created from scratch, which took a lot of research and development," Fong added.

Foremost Scoops occupies roughly 1,000-sq. ft. with seating for about 20. The hours of operation will mirror that of Subway at the moment and Transpacific may consider adjusting as business trends are established.

'Fresh'

Foremost Scoops touts the quality of its cream. Because Foremost products are produced in Transpacific's own facility in Guam, the company knows the ice cream it serves is made fresh, "possibly just days ago."

"Few places can boast that," Fong said. "We do not compromise the quality of our ingredients, but still offer excellent value for the money."

Ice cream lovers can choose from flavors unique to Foremost, including Ube, Banana Susana or the newest addition, Mocha Almond Fudge. Health conscious consumers may also choose frozen yogurt.

The ice cream parlor offers waffle cones made fresh throughout the day, available in single or double scoop sizes. For a bigger treat, it has Classic Sundaes, also in single or double scoop, with a variety of toppings like hot fudge and nuts.

For an even chiller treat, Foremost Scoops has milk shakes made with ice cream and Foremost milk. Prices range from $2.99 to $5.29.

Fong said the ice cream parlor's soft opening allowed the staff to practice making the perfect "scoop."

"Scooping is an art that requires a certain precision and feel that can only be gained with experience so the soft opening allows our team to perfect that," he said. "The grand opening will be on Friday, Jan. 30, with a special celebration and ribbon cutting. We hope that the public will come down that weekend or very soon after to try out the great products we have to offer."

Another popular ice cream parlor on Saipan is Big Dipper, located in Garapan.

Ice cream lovers now have a wider choice of flavors with the grand opening today of Foremost Scoops in Gualo Rai beside Subway.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

January is NATIONAL GLAUCOMA AWARENESS MONTH

Glaucoma is a disease of the eye that can be managed through regular visits to the eye doctor.

We have state of the art diagnostic tools to monitor and manage the health of the eyes.

Please call us at
235-2030

SERVICES OFFERED:
• Thorough examinations for eye disease • Treatment for infections and injuries
• Glaucoma treatment • Diabetic eye care • Infant/children eye exams

HARDT EYE CLINIC
DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.
Located on Beach Road next to Megabyte.
We accept most insurance plans and all major credit cards

TALK FOR LESS!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PREPAID RATES
Available at all DOCOMO PACIFIC locations
and convenient stores throughout The CNMI.

20¢ OUTGOING
All calls from any carrier!
PER MINUTE ANYTIME!
10¢ INCOMING

FREE outgoing Long Distance to Canada, Guam, Hawaii, China, USA, Hong Kong, Australia, Alaska & Korea (only airtime charges apply).

NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC

483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com | Typhoon-Proven
Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan

CEDS ranks proposed projects by priority

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several members of the Legislature listened yesterday as members of the CNMI Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Commission detailed their economic impact ranking system for future CNMI projects.

The presentation was part of the group's five-year economic development plan. Thirty-three projects in various stages of development costing $500 million were ranked by the economic impact they would have in the CNMI, using factors such as job creation, private investment and public benefit. The final document will be presented to the Economic Development Administration Feb. 19 for a grant.

"We're trying to get very creative about financing, because we realize our needs are very expensive and there's a lot of different ways to find them, there's not only just local and federal CIP funds. There's a lot of different entities that have grants," said Lynn Knight, chair of the CEDS and publisher of the *Saipan Tribune*.

Knight

The group found that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has the most impact economically on the Commonwealth. The Commission recommends that CUC engage in a public-private partnership.

Along with Knight, Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, Arthur Smith, president of Management Analysis, Inc., and Sergio Loya, project manager for MAI, took part in the presentation. The Commission hired MIA to analyze the information for the development plan.

Knight urged the Legislature to pass a resolution supporting the five-year plan.

Meanwhile, officials from Neo Goldwings Paradise met with legislative members in the morning about a planned $300-million casino resort on Tinian.

The project calls for a 1,000-room hotel, casino, observatory, sauna and fitness center, indoor ice-skating rink, outdoor concert hall, amusement park, water park, 36-hole golf link, horse riding ground, yacht basin, hot balloon area, and a Chamorro cultural village, among other things.

Senate President Pete Reyes said the project is very ambitious. He added that public meetings school be scheduled on the proposed resort in the next two weeks.

Neo Goldwings is one of several companies that have expressed interest in putting up casinos and resorts on the island of Tinian.

BUD LIGHT
Budweiser
BUDBOWL
TAMPA 2009
February 2nd, 2009.
Hard Rock CAFE
Doors open at 7am
Godfather's Bar
Doors open at 8am
OLEAI
BEACH BAR & GRILL
Doors open at 8am
Free T-Shirts while supplies last, win cool Bud Bowl gear!*
Bud Family on Special, Enjoy Breakfast and Lunch & Watch the Big Game.
*Must be 21 yrs or older to participate. While supplies last.
RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 30, 2001

Moves on to repeal 3-year limit

Works are now underway in the upper house of the CNMI Legislature to repeal a current law that limits the stay of nonresident workers in the Commonwealth to three years, after which they will be barred from coming back until after six months. In an interview with reporters yesterday, Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes said a proposal that seeks to eliminate the three-year limit has already been introduced and is currently sitting in the upper chamber for a deeper and thorough review. Reyes said a public hearing will be scheduled to allow the Northern Marianas community to submit testimony on the proposal.

Child tax credit checks out this week

The finance department is preparing the release of over $600,000 worth of checks that will be paid to local taxpayers under the Additional Child Tax Credit Program, which the US Internal Revenue Service implements in the CNMI following months of oversight. Finance Secretary Lucy Dlg. Nielsen said the department is poised at releasing the checks this week, adding that DOF officials and personnel are now processing the applications submitted to the Division of Revenue and Taxation. Rushing to the regular meeting of the government's finance managers on the Finance Management Improvement Plan at the Capitol Hill yesterday, Nielsen failed to give further details especially on the number of families who will receive their checks first.

January 30, 2002

Jobless rate hike in Japan to affect NMI

The CNMI economy is in for another year of upheaval as Japan's unemployment rate reached a record-high of 5.6 percent in December—a trend seen to diminish the remaining hopes of the Commonwealth's tourism industry. Local businessmen expressed serious doubts that the CNMI economy will stabilize by midyear as earlier projected, as travel security and recession continue to hit Japan and other Asian countries. Coupled with a weak rally of the yen versus the US dollar, which has deteriorated significantly in the last two years, businessmen believe that a major turnaround in the CNMI tourism industry is yet to be seen in 2003.

One division, two masters

To paraphrase rap artist Eminem, will the real Slim Shady at the Customs Division please stand up! That might as well be the refrain of employees at the Division of Customs, after the recent appointment of Frank Taitano as director of the division, despite director Joe Mafnas still occupying the post. "It's a source of confusion right now for the staff and it may also create confusion among our clients on who makes the decisions here now. It is a problem that needs to be addressed immediately," said Mafnas in an interview yesterday.

January 30, 2003

Tug-of-war in BoS license renewal

With Bank of Saipan on the brink of losing its license, bank receiver Antonio Muna asked the court yesterday to intervene so that renewal of its license could be facilitated. The bank's license expires this Friday. Muna said there is no hope of rehabilitating and reopening the bank if its license would not be renewed. Commerce Secretary Fermin Atalig had recently denied the bank's application to renew its license. As this developed, the bank separately asked the Superior Court yesterday to approve the rehabilitation plan it submitted, asking that the matter be heard in open court immediately. Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan agreed and scheduled a hearing on February 12, whether or not to approve the rehabilitation plan.

Atalig: No need for court intervention

Commerce Secretary and Banking Director Fermin Atalig yesterday challenged the request of Bank of Saipan receiver Antonio Muna for the court to facilitate the renewal of the bank's license, saying the judiciary has no power to compel him to relinquish powers vested in his position by the CNMI Legislature. Assistant Attorney General Benjamin Sachs, on behalf of Atalig, also said the receiver is bound by the same legislative requirements of licensure as the bank itself. "Under the primary jurisdiction doctrine, courts are to refrain from deciding controversies within the jurisdiction of an agency until after the agency head has rendered his or her decision," Sachs said, stressing that the primary purpose of licensure is to protect depositors and borrowers.

CLUB V
Shirley's COFFEE SHOP
Home of the Best Fried Rice
SUSUPE BRANCH
Presents
SUPER MONDAY SPECIALS
February 02,2009
"EXPERIENCE & FEEL THE INTENSITY"
Watch the Game & Enjoy our Sumptuous BUFFET !!!
Club V offers
breakfast buffet &
free flow of Pepsi &
Miller Beers
$15 only
Shirley's Susupe offers
special breakfast buffet $7.95 only
endless round of brewed coffee
Pepsi 50% discount
Miller Beers $1.50
Smoke-free Environment
Win Door Prizes & Give Away
Brand New Cellphone
brought to you by PTC & Docomo
$500 worth of prizes to be given out
Doors open at 7:00am
Beers to be served at 9:00am
Another exciting offer from the Grand!
Miller Lite
PEPSI
SAIPANCELL Communications is now
NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
For inquiries please call
234-6601 ext. 301-302
SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company

Welcome to the Kid's World
THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF
WHIMSY
Enjoy Kid's
Sunday Brunch
$5.99 only w/
11am – 2pm
BIG BOYS
Parents or guardian 20% VIP discount at
AOI RESTAURANT
Sunday Brunch
$22.00
FREE!!
WHIMSY GAMES,
SWIMMING POOL PASS
& RIDES.
PEPSI
Another exciting offer from the grand!
For reservation, please call 235-6616
SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 26

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Savvy diplomacy

President Barack Obama is not going to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, crush the Taliban, end Iran's nuclear intransigence, get Syria to stop interfering in Lebanon or end the fighting in Iraq overnight—or next week, or possibly ever. Yet his interview Tuesday with the Al-Arabiya satellite channel laid a foundation for better U.S. relations with the Arab world than we've had in many years.

Obama's savvy diplomacy started before he even opened his mouth, with his selection of Al-Arabiya to air the first official television interview he has granted since taking office. Not only did this signal a new level of involvement in Middle Eastern affairs, but it gave a boost to a Saudi-owned news channel founded in 2003 to present a more balanced view of regional conflicts than was being produced by the more Islamist-leaning Al-Jazeera network. The latter has since become more objective in its coverage, possibly because it was losing viewers to Al-Arabiya. Now it has even more incentive to play fair: the chance of landing the next Obama exclusive.

Obama offered few clues about specific changes in policy, but the interview presented a striking change in tone from the belligerence and neglect of the Bush administration to respectfulness and engagement. "The United States has a stake in the well-being of the Muslim world," he said. "The language we use has to be a language of respect." He reassured Muslim viewers that the United States was not their enemy, acknowledged that this country had made mistakes in the region by "dictating" rather than listening, and reiterated his commitment to negotiating with Iran.

The Arab reaction seemed widely positive, although Obama doubtless will be judged more by his actions than his words. He already has made progress on that front, too, sending his Middle East envoy, George Mitchell, on an eight-day tour of the region that started Tuesday in Egypt. Unlike President George W. Bush, who waited until late in his second term to make a concerted push for peace between Israelis and Palestinians, Obama has directed his attention to the conflict within a week of taking office.

Obama's efforts to negotiate with hostile regimes are sure to rile many in this country, and not just the wingnut crowd that thinks the president's middle name proves he's a secret Muslim. They fail to see that diplomacy is not the same as surrender, that disputes are unlikely to end if opponents don't talk to one another, and that sanctions alone have been ineffective in changing the behavior of leaders in Iran and Gaza. A new approach couldn't be more welcome.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

WE'VE ENTERED A NEW ERA OF DIPLOMACY— WE'RE PREPARED TO SIT DOWN AND TALK ANYWHERE, ANYTIME!
HENCEFORTH WE WILL...
SPEAK SOFTLY AND CARRY A THREE-LEGGED STOOL!
"SMART POWER"
DIPLOMACY
DEFENSE
AID
ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL TREVER ©2009

The Oil Card

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

Seeing gasoline under $3 a gallon ($2.829) is a welcome state of affairs for Saipan, so what better time to take a breather and wonder why oil had such a drastic run up in recent times. What made it go up? What made it fall (mostly) back down?

As for the going up part, my take, in my April 25, 2008, column, was this: " I think we're seeing a huge Middle East worry premium, for the simple and elegant reason that I can't think of anything else to explain what's going on."

More recently, the glaring flaw in my theory, of course, was that oil prices collapsed without an apparent change in the Middle East situation and its related worry premium.

Well, I'm out of answers. But seasoned business and energy reporter James R. Norman has a few answers of his own. He's the author of *The Oil Card* (TrineDay, $14.95, 244 pages). This is a bold, original, and, frankly, conspiratorial take on the wacky swings we've seen in oil and gasoline prices. Hey, if we're paying all that money for gasoline, we might as well try to find out why.

Norman's theory is that the U.S. government, via its various levers in both public and private sectors, does, indeed, set, or at least strongly influence, oil prices. Why would Uncle Sam do this? Because, Norman believes, it is economic muscle that can either punish, or reward, Russia and China, who are, of course, the main strategic rivals to the U.S.

As a major oil exporter, Russia benefits from high prices. China, on the other hand, which imports oil to feed its thirsty industrial machine, is hurt by high oil prices.

Taking the reverse case (low oil prices), Norman spells out how, as the sun set on the U.S.S.R., the U.S. was working to keep oil prices low so it could presumably put the zap on Ivan's wallet.

The higher prices of 2008 and the immediate years before, by contrast, flooded Russia's coffers with money, but may have also been a swipe at China. In a chapter on China titled "From Ally to Adversary," Norman says: "Well before Clinton left office, and with or without his involvement, the U.S. security establishment appears to have been moving toward a 'Plan B' to deal head-on with the China threat." Norman then describes various geopolitical matters that seem to show that America is thwarting China's efforts to improve its international oil access and development assets.

Norman manages to pack most pages full of market data, company information, transaction figures, and other pertinent facts. His hands-on time as a reporter in the industry certainly pays off here. There's not much, if any, slick summarization or distillation of this data, it's presented in a constant stream of prices, facts, figures, names, and events. It's up to you to connect the dots.

The meatiest concept of Norman's outlook is that the futures market in oil is subject to U.S. manipulation, and the modern epoch's influx of pension funds, for example, gives the powers behind the curtain extra weight to throw around. Do I buy the idea that Uncle Sam can substantially set the price of oil in this manner? No, I don't, not that I'm an expert in oil futures, but the case has not been proven to me.

The book (published in 2008) did not predict the recent collapse in oil prices. By contrast, Norman accentuates a future where prices "climb ever upward from $100/bbl to $120, $150 or even $200...the reason is economic warfare" waged by the U.S against China. Well, that's a far, far cry from today's price of $42/bbl. Of course, prices might yet zoom back up; I have no idea what will happen. Still, wherever prices go, I give Norman (who has written for *Forbes* and *Business Week*) credit for laying his cards on the table, which is very rare in this era of generally gutless, mealy-mouthed economics writing.

The Oil Card, also to its credit, pooh-poohs the "Peak Oil" hysteria, as do the couple of experts I've discussed the topic with.

This is an interesting book with a lot of international intrigue, and, though I don't connect the dots the same way as the author does, I learned a lot from reading it. If you're interested in China, as many Saipan residents are, the book has quite a few interesting economic observations. Also, the detailed, eight-page index does justice to the hundreds (probably thousands) of facts that the book presents; that's a nice touch.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Desperately seeking stability

By DAVID AMBROZ
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

At age 11, after years of homelessness, abuse and instability, I was removed from my dysfunctional biological family and placed into foster care. The next six years, until I aged out of the system at 17, were a blur of foster homes, schools and group facilities.

The only permanent and certain thing in my life was impermanence. Among my fellow foster youth, the running joke was that we all had matching luggage—the large garbage bags our social workers gave us to pack our things in when it was time to move.

Still, I never lost hope. With each new foster family, I thought surely this would be the last, that I would find a home and love to replace that of my mother. I never did, but I was lucky to have siblings—even though we were seldom together in foster care—and a number of decent, loving adults in my life.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 129,000 children await adoption from foster care. And for those who never find permanent homes—about 25,000 each year age out of the foster-care system without having been adopted—the future is often grim.

They face high rates of incarceration, homelessness, poverty and early childbirth. Less than 47 percent of foster kids graduate from high school, and less than 4 percent of those go on to college.

With so many kids needing homes, it is shocking that a growing number of states now prohibit unmarried couples—gay and straight—from adopting or serving as foster parents. In November, Arkansas joined a growing list of states that ban such adoptions, including Georgia, Oklahoma, Utah and Mississippi.

My partner, Dan, and I hope to adopt one day. (Gay adoption is legal in California.) And if we do, it will be out of a conviction that kids deserve a better chance than I had for a permanent, loving home.

I'm confused by people who call themselves pro-family yet would prefer to see children bounce from home to home—or worse, to be raised in an institution—because there aren't enough foster homes to go around.

The Arkansas law, which voters passed with a 57 percent majority, bans all unmarried couples from adopting. But there's no doubt that it is aimed at gays and lesbians. The initiative came after the state's Supreme Court struck down as discriminatory a regulation two years ago that specifically banned gays and lesbians—but not unmarried heterosexual couples—from adopting. The new law was an attempt to address the court's concerns.

In its ruling, the Arkansas Supreme Court found that "there is no correlation between the health, welfare and safety of foster children and the blanket exclusion of any individual who is a homosexual."

According to the Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles, about 65,000 U.S. children live with gay adoptive parents. And the research suggests that they aren't being harmed by their parents' sexual orientation. A study by the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute in 2006 found that "virtually every valid study reaches the same conclusion: The children of gays and lesbians adjust positively and their families function well." Studies of gay adoption are fewer in number, but the Donaldson Institute concluded that "the limited research on gay/lesbian adoption points in the same direction."

Based on my own experience, I'd say children in foster care don't care about the sexual orientation of people wanting to adopt them. They want loving, permanent and safe environments. Kids shouldn't become pawns in the nation's culture wars.

Ambroz is an attorney and executive director of the Los Angeles City College foundation.

Letters to the Editor

Skewed priorities

Can anyone recall Governor Fitial's "Road Map to Better Times" platform? Fortunately, I can, as I keep a copy of it underneath my pillow to help me dream about the better times that was promised to all of us. Under "The 5 E's platform," Fitial and company promised a better education system for our children. And at the top of the "E for Education" list? *"...Ensure adequate funding for capital projects, physical education facilities, quality labs and classrooms, and school libraries."*

I have learned over the years that a politician's promise is about as good as drinking CUC's tap water—both can make you sick in the stomach. As you may know, Fitial has taken the Community Block Development Grant that was promised to GTC Elementary School to renovate their termite-infested classrooms and will use it to help build a soccer complex in Koblerville.

It is evident that Governor Fitial believes a soccer complex is of greater priority than ensuring that a classroom doesn't collapse on students' heads. Perhaps Fitial believes GTC teachers can go back to the basics and just teach their students under a pine tree, or at a *pala pala* along the beach. The most crucial thing right now that trumps building new classrooms for our children is a soccer complex in Koblerville. Way to go, governor! In addition to the soccer complex, perhaps we can plan a fact-finding mission to Manila. During this very important government-paid junket, we could look into the feasibility of bringing in a peanut butter and shoe factory to Saipan to stimulate our econ... Ooops, scratch that. I've just been told that idea has already been explored.

The fact that Fitial prioritizes a soccer field over fixing termite-infested classrooms does not surprise me. After all, this is the same governor who wants to cut everyone's salary across the board by implementing austerity measures once again, yet somehow finds money to hire more non-essential employees right before election time. Hmmmm, must be nothing more than a coincidence.

Since we're talking about austerity measures, how about we have our leaders practice what they preach? How about we have Governor Fitial start paying for his CUC bill? How about returning all the government-leased SUVs and luxury sedans? How about we eliminate our House and Senate's discretionary funds? How about we make it a rule that every government employee has to now pay for their cellular phone bill? How about we pass the Open Government Act to deter secret wheeling and dealing? How about we finally put an end to career politicians by moving to a part-time legislative body?

To our dear children of GTC Elementary School, perhaps you should forget about your education. Apparently, your governor has. What you need is a soccer ball and a soccer complex. With a lot of hard work, determination, practice, and perseverance, you could become the next soccer superstar...the next Pele or David Beckham! And if you don't? Nephew, no problem! Just support the next governor and deliver two hundred picnic tables and tents for the next few months, and I promise you a job as a technical assistant to the special assistant to the associate director of the deputy director of the next governor's new "special projects division." And don't worry about an education. In the CNMI, it is all about who you know, not what you know!

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

Find other ways to raise revenue

I was reading the *Saipan Tribune* online when I noted the article "NMI Pushed as Pacific Gitmo" and was immediately concerned.

First of all, I never thought that I would hear such a thing. Secondly, I just wish to side with caution that this may be a naive notion to volunteer our beautiful island paradise for this huge undertaking in the hopes of generating revenue. Generating revenue can perhaps come in many different forms, ways, and means. However, let us not rush to the conclusion that allowing our paradise to be the central collection point for terrorist detainees would be beneficial.

Let us examine what our cost-benefits are first. Let us not focus on what this can do for us in the near term, but rather let us analyze mostly, with great consideration, how it will impact our islands in the long term. In our recent history, we have led ourselves down the wrong path by rushing to bright ideas without first examining the real consequences (long-term, that is). We have convinced ourselves to act prematurely in the past, failing to envision what the long-term effects were. Sure, our economy thrived with emerging bright ideas not too long ago. However, we failed to envision and plan for the "what ifs." Let us not allow ourselves to make the same mistakes again.

I stand against the suggestion to transfer terror convicts to any of our beautiful Northern Mariana Islands. Maybe I just do not see the real benefit behind it. Perhaps I just see the long-term negative effects this may have. Imagine the impact on tourism. Will it improve it, or will it negatively affect it? That is merely just one piece to consider. There are so much more. Perhaps there is a reason why so many states do not want to even bother with it. For almost a year now, I have been here at the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS, working on a master's in Military Arts and Science. Here at the Army's intellectual crossroads, we study national strategy, joint forces doctrine, leadership, and various other global affairs. The recent topic of relocating the Guantanamo detainees, needless to say, has been a hot issue in our discussions amongst senior Army leaders. In fact, even the huge federal prison here at Fort Leavenworth is being considered. However, in the process the greater Kansas community does not want this endeavor to come close to their state at all. It is not about patriotism or lack thereof. If we do not get our territory on the list, no one will consider us unpatriotic. On the contrary, if we think we will be considered more patriotic than ever because we volunteer our territory, then we may perhaps be fooling ourselves.

Don't get me wrong, I wholeheartedly agree that we must make every effort to revitalize our economy. However, I do not think that this is the best idea for it. Let us instead push our young and talented minds that are out there for the emergence of other better ideas—ideas that will render a bright future for many generations, not just as a band-aid fix. I fully support the initiative to move the prison, but not to our territory. I suppose that this idea will perhaps generate revenue, but I also think that it will do us more damage than good in the long run.

I have also fought abroad and have seen how great our armed and security forces perform. And yes, we have the finest. Furthermore, I too believe that we have the finest in our Commonwealth and will, without a doubt, handle the mission with distinct honor. However, I just do not want our islands' future to be impacted in the wrong way because we failed to make good judgment. Let us collectively work together to come up with another initiative instead of this. Let us rush to the side of caution before we act, and if I am proven wrong, then so be it. I am only one voice, and the decision is for the majority to make. But we must be deliberate and careful; and if a decision is made, I will support whatever it may be. *Hafa Adai* and may God bless our Commonwealth!

Maj. Lawrence F. Camacho
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

Innuendo and redundancy

To Enrique Seman: There's the supremacy of laws to which adherence is mandatory. In brief, there's the dictates of the Constitution that is supreme. Next, there are statutory or state laws which reigns secondary to the Constitution and finally, municipal laws. If you have any inkling on this concept then please proceed to reading the following:

Article XI Section 5 of the NMI Constitution enumerates the Fundamental Policies of the Marianas Public Land Corporation (MPLC) and its successors. Specifically, section 5(g) states that the Department: "shall receive all moneys from the public lands except those from lands in which freehold interest has been transferred to another agency of government pursuant to section 5(b), and shall transfer these moneys after the end of the fiscal year to the Marianas Public Land Trust Fund except that the corporation shall retain the amount necessary to meet reasonable expenses of administration and management, *homestead development,* and any other expenses reasonably necessary for the accomplishment of its functions."

Nowhere in this constitutional provision does it provide for land compensation. Notice as you read the preceding paragraph that I am quoting a constitutional mandate. It brief, it isn't the creature of the secretary of DPL. And if you still can't find unmistakable clarity on what this constitutional provision says, I suppose this discussion has come to its final conclusion.

Your disoriented or distorted view hasn't helped clarify the issues. There's a substantive difference between what the Constitution says and what you think it says, clear? In other words, what is can't be isn't, simultaneously. Be careful for it seems you're practicing law without a license and the bar association won't be happy about it either. And tell your boss you've spent precious time at work scribbling disoriented layman's legal views, yeah?

John S. DelRosario Jr.
Secretary, DPL

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

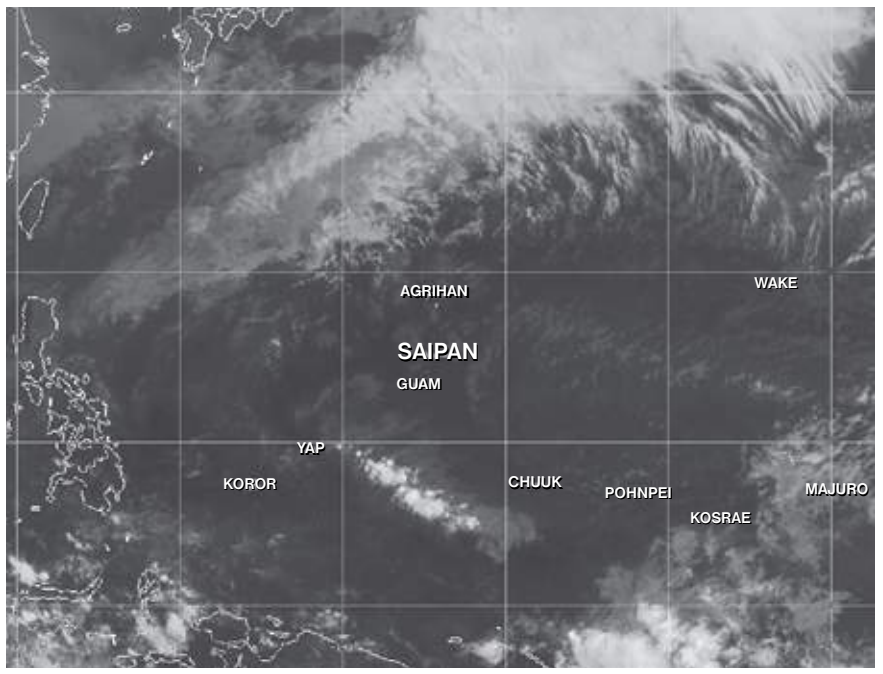
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲83	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲89	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲84	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼71
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲39	▼21
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲68	▼57
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼68
London	Cloudy	▲46	▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲80	▼52
Manila	Showers	▲86	▼74
Melbourne	Hot	▲100	▼81
Miami	Thundershowers	▲73	▼46
New York	Flurries	▲36	▼23
Osaka	Rain	▲61	▼47
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲44	▼33
Pusan	Rain	▲59	▼36
Rome	Sunny	▲53	▼34
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲46	▼35
San Francisco	Sunny	▲61	▼46
Seoul	Cloudy	▲47	▼26
Tokyo	Rain	▲54	▼44
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲41	▼25

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, JAN. 29, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line stretches southwestward from 25N150E to beyond 130E at 20N. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line. A surface trough near Yap runs from 9N138E to EQ150E. Winds converging along this trough are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 6N and 9N from 138E to 141E. Divergence aloft is enhancing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Kosrae between the equator and 3N from 160E to 164E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:58 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:29 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:44 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
10:00 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:03 AM	9:26 PM
Saturday	9:39 AM	10:17 PM
Sunday	10:18 AM	11:10 PM
Monday	10:59 AM	
Tuesday	11:46 AM	12:02 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Free up jobs for residents

Judge Governdo recently imposed a suspended jail sentence and fined a man for filing fraudulent documents at Labor/Immigration Office. Let us hope that this heralds a new beginning for our judges and our government and legislative leaders to rise up to the occasion and do right by citizens/residents by prosecuting foreigners who have repeatedly filed fraudulent documents with our labor and immigration office in order to continue to live and work here. These individuals are displacing U.S. citizens and residents especially during these difficult times.

With many jobs having disappeared with the departure of our garment factories and many more jobs about to evaporate in an economy that is totally at the mercy of global economies from west to east, from south to north—economies in shambles themselves—it does not take an economist to see that there simply are not that many job opportunities in the CNMI anymore. So why should our own government allow these marauding foreigners to continue to live and work here under such fraudulent means. These individuals are effectively taking scarce jobs away from lawful citizens and residents.

Our economic problems are exacerbated by the impending federalization of our immigration. Federalization has made it so uncertain for many existing businesses and investors that many have simply given up and have taken a wait-and-see attitude. This means that we will probably not see too many other job opportunities in the next several years. This means that whatever jobs are left should go to citizens and residents, not to nonresident workers, especially not to the foreigners who have knowingly and consciously gone out of their way to deceive us.

We must not allow the pleas and cries of the people in these difficult times to fall on deaf ears. We must call our governor and legislators. They must hear our cries and pleas.

Mind you, I have nothing against foreigners per se. Just the ones who are here under false pretenses: those who have lied about their status to be able to stay here and continue to lie to stay here. By lying about their marital status these individuals essentially perjured themselves and the privilege for these individuals to be in the Commonwealth should be forfeited and they should be sought out, fined and "exiled" back to their home countries.

We can probably expect to read more and more about frauds in the days ahead as many immediate relatives rush to file documents with Immigration Office in order to secure their status under federalization. We can probably also expect to read more and more about joblessness in the Commonwealth.

Fed up and looking for job opportunities now being held by these marauding foreigners, many U.S. citizens and residents will not hesitate, not even for a moment, to turn them in. Just ask your unemployed U.S. citizens and residents.

Free up whatever jobs are left for U.S. citizens and residents. Report any suspected cases of sham marriages to the authorities.

Speaking of jobs, now is the time for all good men and women of the Commonwealth to hold Labor Office to its law-mandated priority of first preference for local hires. Issuing two-year permits to non-resident workers in a shrinking economy runs counter to this priority of first preference for local hires or so it would seem.

Two-year permits for non-resident is going to result in the unemployment of U.S. citizens and residents, en masse, especially during the transition period. Just ask the many U.S. citizens who have lost their jobs with the garment industry and who remain unemployed to date. Ask your soon to be unemployed immigration employees.

Call your legislators. Call your governor. Tell them you need a job and should get one under the local preference law.

Silech Terei
Upper Navy Hill, Saipan

Letter of apology

To Aon Insurance Company
Garapan, Saipan

Please accept my apologies for the crime I committed in the insurance scam case against your company. I made a mistake by doing something for my employer and causing damage to your company as a direct result of my actions. I promise to do my best to restore the loss to your company. I have been placed under probation for two years and spend 30 days in jail as punishment by the judge. I feel shame for what I committed and promise your company and employees never again to commit such a crime. I want to be a good man to our society and the future. Just to inform you that as part of my sentence by the court I am to pay a fine, probation fee, court fee and restitution. Again this is a chance for me to pay for my mistakes.

Once again, I ask for your company to forgive me. I promise it will never happen again.

Xinmao Zheng

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?
NEW YEAR SPECIAL
PAINT & PAINT PRODUCTS
SPECTRUM: Premium quality paints for the tropics, A UNIQUE SUPERBRAND PAINT!

Flat white latex paint:	$55.00/pail
Semi-gloss white latex paint:	$68.00/pail
Flat white enamel paint:	$68.00/pail
Semi-gloss white enamel paint:	$68.00/pail
Gloss white enamel paint:	$68.00/pail

(16 liters or 4.25 gallons =1 Pail)

PROMOTION: FREE GIVEAWAY FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF PAINTS.
1) $100.00 & ABOVE: 2 SOAP HOLDER
2) $400.00 & ABOVE: SHOWER ROOM DOOR WORTH $132.00
3) $600.00 & ABOVE: 1 WATERCLOSET WORTH $178.00

FLAT LATEX $14.00/Gallon
SEMI-GLOSS LATEX $16.00/Gallon
ON SALE ALL PAINT ACCESSORIES!

CERAMIC TILES
NEW ARRIVAL OF CERAMIC TILES, 12*12 $0.79*
FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF CERAMIC TILES WORTH $600.00, GET 1 PAIL TILE ADHESIVE (HENRY 314) FOR FREE
$3.00 DELIVERY CHARGE TO TINIAN

OTHERS
CEMENT $6.30/BAG FOR OVER 30 BAGS
HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU) 4"-$0.50/pc • 6"-$0.60/pc • 8"-$0.70/pc
REBAR-$950.00/SHORT TON
WATERCLOSET $78 UP • SINK $29 UP
GALVALUME ROOF TIN G26 FROM KOREA, BETTER QUALITY & RUST RESISTANCE
25%OFF FOR 2X6 & 2X8 UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR & TREATED
40%OFF FOR OVERSIZED AND DAMAGED MAHOGANY LUMBER
5/8" PLYFORM: $24.50
2*4*20 TREATED: $11.25

UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR	UTILITY LUMBER TREATED
2X4X12 - $3.90	2X4X12 - $6.30
2X4X14 - $4.60	2X4X14 - $7.30
2X4X16 - $5.10	2X4X16 - $8.70
2X4X18 - $5.80	2X4X18 - $9.70
2X4X20 - $6.40	2X4X20 - $10.70
2X6X12 - $6.90	2X6X12 - $10.20
2X6X14 - $7.90	2X6X14 - $12.20
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X16 - $14.20
2X6X18 - $9.90	2X6X18 - $15.20
2X6X20 - $10.90	2X6X20 - $17.20

JOINT COMPOUND $19.90/5GALS
ABS PIPE 4" $39.50
15% TO 50% OFF ALL DAMAGED ITEMS
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
Never satisfied until you are
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:gddc@pticom.com
Business hours:
Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MICROL TOYOTA
SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

2003 LEXUS LS430
Auto, Ivory, Stock: R08-003F
License: ADU-502
Mileage: 54477
~~PRICE $29,999~~
REDUCED PRICE
$26,899

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-015F	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	59734	WHITE	ADJ-831	9,299	
R08-022B	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	70447	AQUA	ADH-691	7,999	
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	
R08-023F	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	29549	RED	ACE-780	14,999	
U08-090R	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	42193	BLUE	ACJ-553	11,399	
U09-001L	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	32900	WHITE	ACE-506	11,399	
R09-001B	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	242798	WHITE	ACB-578	5,999	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
R08-020F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	50052	RED	ADO-831	15,999	
U08-043P	2000	CELICA 2DR	MANUAL	72097	BLUE	ABZ-838	7,999	
R08-021F	2005	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	68931	RED	ACD-510	9,999	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
U08-087R	2005	EPICA 4DR	AUTO	26553	OLIVE	ACB-027	5,999	
LEXUS								
U08-067P	1995	LEXUS LS400	AUTO	24762	WHITE	ABS-062	11,399	
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	BEIGE	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	4,899
GM VAN								
R08-017F	2003	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	117560	WHITE	BUS-1077	9,499	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799

MICROL TOYOTA
Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com
TOYOTA ACDelco

$8.5K needed for sick worker's airfare alone

Only $1,600 raised so far by community groups

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Geraldine Amor, the contract worker diagnosed with lupus and is seeking monetary donation from the community, needs at least $8,500 to pay for her airfare and that of a doctor and a nurse to escort her from Saipan to Manila.

This amount is on top of the "deposit" being asked of Amor by Asian Medical Center in Manila for them to accept her on her arrival in her home country. But the family is now thinking of bringing Amor to another medical facility in the Philippines.

"We need much more than what we currently have," her aunt, Remy Amor, told *Saipan Tribune*.

The aunt said her niece will have to pay for 10 seats on Asiana Airlines, including the seats for an accompanying nurse and doctor.

Remy Amor, the Overseas Filipino Worker Support Group led by welfare committee chair Carlito Marquez and the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects led by Bong de Guzman have so far raised about $1,600.

They have yet to collect donations dropped off in designated points on Saipan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Remy Amor and Carlito Marquez appeal for help on the radio station KWAW 100.3 FM, during the show of DJ Jimmy B.

Geraldine Amor remains in the intensive care unit of the Commonwealth Health Center. Prior to her admission to the hospital, she had been ill for months, resulting in the non-renewal of her contract, which expired on Dec. 10.

"I don't think her two sons can travel with her back home because of the money needed. The doctor said she can travel but that will now depend on how soon we could raise enough money," said Remy Amor in Pilipino. "Asian Hospital is also asking for a deposit. We're seeking the community's help if they could refer us to other hospitals in the Philippines that don't necessarily ask for deposit."

The patient has two sons—a 3-year-old and a 1-year-old.

Geraldine was diagnosed with lupus, an auto-immune disease that can affect various parts of the body, including the skin, joints, heart, lungs, blood, kidneys and brain.

On Tuesday night, her aunt Remy Amor and Marquez appealed for help on the radio station KWAW 100.3 FM, during the show of DJ Jimmy B.

The OFW Support Group and MAFEA have added dropoff points for monetary donations to Amor to be able to reach out to more members of the community. They include Jun Banadera of Saipan Shipping for the Lower Base area; Jun Lapeceros for Chinatown and Garapan areas; Cesar Pantaleon for the Gualo Rai area (tel. # 286 5991/233 0561); and Ciela Puguon, a nurse at CHC's Operating Department (286 7482).

The other dropoff points are Ever Clean Laundry beside Java Joe's in Dandan (Jaye N. Bautista; Champstar Electronics along Quartermaster Road (Marivic Soriano); and Power Plant 4 office on Middle Road near Anaks (Carlito Marquez 286 6337).

Joeten Motors Certified* USED CARS

DEALS OF THE WEEK

2005 Kia Rio
STOCK # 56395736
$8,995.00*

2005 Nissan Sentra 1.8
STOCK # 5L472573
$11,995.00*

2004 Nissan Maxima SE
STOCK # 4C835957
$14,995.00*

2005 Ford Mustang
STOCK # 55105436
$23,995.00

2004 Honda Element EX 4x4
STOCK # 4L003130
$15,995.00*

2005 Kia Spectra
STOCK # 55151646
SOLD
$9,995.00*

2001 Honda Prelude
STOCK # 1C005458
$9,995.00*

2006 Nissan Armada 4x4
STOCK # 6N736174
$27,995.00*

2004 Honda Civic LX
STOCK # 4L022357
SOLD
$12,995.00*

2004 Ford Explorer XLT
STOCK # 4UA51928
$12,995.00*

2005 Honda Civic DX
STOCK # 5L002379
$12,995.00*

2005 Kia Sportage 4x4
STOCK # 57085101
$14,995.00*

Henis Nedlic
Sales Consultant
Visit or call 234-5562

2007 Ford Ranger King Cab
STOCK # 7PA31120
$16,995.00*

2005 Nissan Frontier 4x4
STOCK # 5C411080
$19,995.00*

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM
SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last.
* Vehicles Certified with 61 point inspection.

Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

Steelers
WORLD RESORT SAIPAN
SUPER MONDAY
Steelers ARIZONA CARDINALS
SUPER BOWL XLIII
PEPSI
Coors LIGHT
RedBox
Monday - February 2, 2009
Doors Open at 7:30am - Entrance Fee: $15.00
Door prizes will be raffled
BREAKFAST BUFFET will be served 8:00am - 10:30am
All you can drink COORS LIGHT and PEPSI
Tickets available for sale at the REDBOX 234-5900 ext.344/398

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Community is preparing for the World Marriage Day celebration on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009, from 4pm to 6pm at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater. The celebration is free and open to all married couples. Bishop Thomas Camacho, Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez and his wife, Margaret, along with the Marriage Encounter members are present for the World Marriage Day proclamation. In the search for the Couple Married Longest in the CNMI, the deadline for all entries is Jan. 31, 2009. E-mail their names, phone numbers and wedding date to Kanae Quinn at cnmiwmd@yahoo.com. One entry is for a couple who have been married 67 years! An announcement of winning couple will be made in the coming days.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Baseball field renovations seek to lure foreign teams

To attract more regional baseball teams to train on Saipan, the island is beginning a series of upgrades to the baseball and softball fields at the island's main sports complex.

The Marianas Visitors Authority is spearheading the Oleai Sports Complex enhancement project, which dedicates $145,000 to repairs and renovations for the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field and Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field.

The project would include installation of a 50-foot retractable fence, replacement of the existing fence, installation of protective pads, and repair of night game floodlights. The project also includes upgrades to the softball field, the bullpen, batting tunnels, and equipment storage facilities.

"With our year-round tropical weather and proximity to East Asia, the Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are an ideal training location for professional teams in the region," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "This renovation project is a 'double play' in our books, helping us to attract regional teams and their accompanying media, while also benefiting all our local ballplayers."

MVA met with the Department of Public Work on Jan. 12, 2009. DPW is providing technical support for the project and will help meet several grant requirements prior to the issuance of a Notice to Proceed and then Request for Proposal. MVA has also met with the Division of Historic Preservation to address concerns related to historic remains in the area.

The project was funded with a Capitol Improvement Project grant from the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs. It took special attention from MVA and from OIA to gain approval.

"This is not your typical CIP grant, and we acknowledge the support of OIA in approving this project," said Tenorio. "Tourism is the CNMI's only industry now, and with tourism down worldwide, this project is an investment in our economic viability. We thank them wholeheartedly."

The much needed improvements come at the recommendation of LG Twins, a professional baseball team from Korea now on Saipan for training. The project is targeted for completion by the end of 2009. ***(MVA)***

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 502078 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.No.:(670) 664-4809
Fax No.: (670) 664-4813

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at 9:00a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board's office at Bldg. #1336, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (11/6/08)
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Director's Report
VII. Investigator's Report
VIII. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
IX. Old Business:
A. Proposed Amendments to P.L. 14-95
B. S.B. 16-27 Licensing of Contractors
X. New Business:
A. Alexander Drilling
XI. Applications for Board's Review
A. New/Renewal Applications
B. Pending Applications
XII. Miscellaneous Business:
A. Real Estate Brokers
XIV. Executive Session – The Board may vote to meet in Executive Session.
A. Case No. 2008-02
XV. Announcements
XVI. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ **Francisco Q. Guerrero**
Chairman

1 YEAR FREE SERVICE
WITH NEW CAR PURCHASE
The BIG DEAL
Save BIG Right Now!
2 in STOCK
$3,000 OFF
2008 Ford Ranger
1 in STOCK
$3,000 OFF
2008 Nissan Altima
2 in STOCK
$3,000 OFF
2008 Honda Accord
1 in STOCK
$4,000 OFF
2008 Nissan Frontier
4 in STOCK
$3,000 OFF
2008 Kia Sedona
SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM
SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply •
On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last.
Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Puengin Inetnon today
Puengin Inetnon will begin today, Jan. 30, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4pm and end at 10pm. There will vendors selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. Puengin Inetnon is a family-oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. ***(PR)***

MCS garage sale set
Mount Carmel School's PTO will hold a garage sale on Feb. 16, 2009, from 7am to 12pm at the MCS Cafeteria. Slots are available for rent. If you are interested in selling items on this day, contact Carlyn at 664-1022 or 483-9682 or email carlynbodig@hotmail.com. ***(PR)***

Kagman Flea Market tomorrow
The Kagman Flea Market starts tomorrow, Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009, at 8am at the Kagman Community Center parking lot.

The Kagman Komunidat Association is inviting interested individuals to participate in the Kagman Flea Market to be held every government payday Saturday. Interested individuals who would like to sell used items are encouraged to join. No businesses are allowed to participate. Please call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for more info.

MICROL's VISA®
Waver!
usbank
GIFT CARD
VISA
"I'm a VISA Waver!"
2009 TOYOTA RAV4
◆ 28 MPG!*
◆ Direct Tire Pressure Monitoring System!
◆ Driver and front passenger front seat-mounted side airbags and front- and second-row roll-sensing side curtain airbags!
GET A FREE
VISA® GIFT CARD**
WORTH UP TO
$1,000*
2009 TOYOTA CAMRY
◆ 31 MPG!*
◆ AM/FM CD player with MP3/WMA playback capability!
◆ Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) with Traction Control (TRAC)!
Welcome everywhere VISA is accepted.
*OAC. Conditions apply. Actual HWY mileage may vary.
**The U.S. Bank Visa Gift Card cannot be reloaded with additional funds, nor can it be used at an ATM (Automated Teller Machine). Terms and conditions apply and fees may apply to Gift Cards. For complete terms and conditions, see the "U.S. Bank Visa Gift Card Agreement" available online at www.usbankmyaccount.com.
MICROL CORPORATION
Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com
TOYOTA

Chamber membership meeting set
The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be holding its next general membership meeting on Feb. 4, 2009, at the Sandcastle of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am; the meeting will begin at noon.

Senior Special Agents Daniel Holcomb and Michael Byerley from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will speak with Chamber members about the DEA's mission in the CNMI so that the business community can better understand how their mission impacts the economy and what opportunities exist for the private sector to support that mission.

Chamber members will also hear briefly from committee chairs about plans for 2009.

As usual, the meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for the public. ***(PR)***

SSHS report cards out
To all parents and legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students, report cards will be issued on Feb. 5, 2009, from 4pm to 7pm, in the counseling office. All students will be dismissed at 1pm. ***(PR)***

Friends of the Arts audition call
Auditions for "My Fair Lady" the musical stage production and the final FOA production of the current year will be held tomorrow, Jan. 31, 2009, from 3pm to 5pm at Marianas High School, Room 101-D.

This is a large cast production and singers and actors from teen years to mature adults are needed. Principle roles as well as group/chorus scenes are a big part of this musical. Backstage help is also needed, so even if you don't sing or act, you can still be a part of this production.

Showtime for the play will be in late April. Rehearsals will be held evenings and weekends. Those auditioning should be prepared to sing a selection of their own choosing or one of the production numbers. Anyone interested in being a part of the production, but unable to attend either of the auditions dates, call Susan Fishman-Tudor at 233-2225, leave a message with a contact number. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales Live schedule
The public is invited to watch and learn about newsmaking issues on John Gonzales Live on KSPN Channel 2 from 7pm to 8pm. You can participate by text (285-6382), calling (287-4230), or email johngonzales@pticom.com.

Feb. 11	Legislative Leadership and Major Unresolved Issues Sen. President Pedro P. Reyes, House Speaker. Arnold I. Palacios
Feb. 18	Preventing Teen HIV and Unintended Pregnancies Public School System
Feb. 25	Agriculture and Aquaculture: Research & Econ. Opportunities NMC CREES
Mar. 11	Retirement Fund Crisis NMIRF Board and Administrator
Mar. 25	Immigration & Labor Uncertainty CNMI Immigration and Dept. of Labor

Deadline set for filing quarterly tax returns
The Division of Revenue and Taxation is reminding all CNMI residents that the 2008 4th Quarter deadline for filing the quarterly tax returns is Monday, Feb. 2, 2009. The Division of Revenue and Taxation will be open from 7:30am to 6:30pm on Monday Feb. 2, 2009. The office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation is located at the Joeten DanDan Commercial Center. For more information call 664-1000, 664-1034 Compliance Branch, or 664-1065 Collection Branch. ***(PR)***

DEQ brigade sets COP cleanup
The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point (Unai Dangkulo) on Feb. 7.

Thos who would like to volunteer may join the group on Saturday, Feb. 7, at 8am. Volunteers will clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Nepalese passport found
A community resident has found a Nepalese passport. Anyone who lost a Nepalese passport may contact 287-4536. ***(PR)***

Marianas High School schedule
Jan. 30	1st-2nd Period Exams
Feb. 2	No classes (PSS Professional Development)
Feb. 11	2nd Quarter Report Card Day/Open House, 4pm-6pm (student released at 1pm, parents pick up report cards from Homeroom teachers)
Feb. 16	No classes (President's Day)
Feb. 17	No classes (PSS Professional Development)
Feb. 27	Cultural Day, 9am-3pm MHS Campus, Open to the public

For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on **Saturday, January 31, 2009 beginning at 11:00 AM at the Rota Gaming CommissionOffice; Tatachong, Rota, MP.**

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II NEW BUSINESS
- Committee Formation
- Housekeeping Matters - Board/Administrative
- Agenda Matters Establishment

III OLD BUSINESS
- Land Acquisition Matters
- IBPC Proposal

IV EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

V MISCELLANEOUS

VI ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with Public Law 8-4 1, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Vianney B. Hocog
Chairman, Board of Trustees

SNOWBOARD EXCHANGE PROGRAM
Members of the 2009 Marianas High School and Seisa Snowboard/ Cultural Exchange Program pose at the Kamui Ski Links in Hokkaido, Japan. Front row, from left, Christopher Chung, Jolly Ann Cruz, Steven Igisaiar, Alicia Yen, Yesol Jun, and Brittany Sablan. Back row, from left, Antonio Tiples and Ellis A. Miller.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bordallo named chair of insular affairs subpanel

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) has been appointed to head the newly merged Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife under the House Natural Resources Committee of chairman Nick J. Rahall (D-WV).

The subcommittee has jurisdiction over legislation governing the nation's U.S. territories and Compacts of Free Association, as well as issues relating to fisheries management, wildlife resources, coastal barrier protection and coastal zone management, and marine sanctuaries, among other areas.

Bordallo said, "The Subcommittee will work to set federal policy for the insular areas while continuing to ensure the long-term protection and responsible use of our nation's marine and terrestrial wildlife resources, as well as the environmental health of our coasts and oceans. …We are ready to continue our progress on a number of initiatives that I have worked to advance since first assuming the role as a Subcommittee chairwoman during the 110th Congress."

Bordallo's appointment was announced by Rahall yesterday as part of the appointment of other chairmen and chairwomen to lead three other Subcommittees for the 111th Congress.

"I am pleased to welcome back this exemplary group of individuals who have shown a proven commitment to preserving and protecting America's natural and cultural heritage for future generations," Rahall said. "Despite the many challenges that lie ahead during these dire economic times, I know that this group of talented individuals stands ready and willing to join me in invoking the change that is necessary to restore the vitality of our nation."

Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA) will chair the Subcommittee on Water and Power, which has jurisdiction over water resources development, including irrigation and water recycling projects and the Federal power administrations, among other areas.

Napolitano said, "I am glad to be back as chair of the Water and Power Subcommittee to work on critical issues that affect our western states. I also want to thank Chairman Rahall for his leadership and steadfast protection of our nation's natural resources."

Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) will chair the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, which among other areas has jurisdiction over the National Wilderness Preservation System, units of the National Park and National Forest System, and the Bureau of Land Management.

"I am pleased once again to be chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands for the 111th Congress," said Grijalva. "I promise the same level of commitment and oversight of our national parks and public lands. I look forward to working with the Obama Administration and my colleagues in upholding our nation's environmental standards."

Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA) will chair the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, which has jurisdiction over energy development on public lands and waters, including oil and gas leasing in the Outer Continental Shelf, among other areas.

Costa said, "I will continue to work toward a dependable energy production policy, while protecting vulnerable lands and waters. This Congress must work toward a long-term sustainable energy policy, and I believe under the leadership of Chairman Rahall, we will see positive steps toward reliable, abundant, and clean domestic sources of energy." ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DPW-039

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 20, 2009 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"PEST CONTROL SERVICES - TRANSFER STATION AND MARPI SOLID WASTE FACILITY (MSWF)"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 04, 2009 AT DPW - SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TRANSFER STATION, CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE IN WRITING TO MR. BLAS T. MARNAS, ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOLID WASTE BY FACSIMILE TO (760) 322-2762, NO LATER THAN (FEBRUARY 09, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS)

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **DIEGO B. SONGSONG**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

Eco-friendly checking
for your *eco-friendly lifestyle.*

MyGreenFreeChecking

BankPacific is committed to keeping **Our Islands Green.** Open your account today for a paperless MyGreenFreeChecking and team up with us to help preserve our resources and environment and get **$15!**

Conveniently, securely and easily access your account online.

Receive the special edition MyGreenFreeChecking Visa® Check Card which can be used worldwide and online.

Paperless statements reduce clutter and waste.

✓ **Free Checking While Being GREEN!**
✓ No Monthly Maintenance Fees
✓ No Minimum Balance
✓ No Annual Fees
✓ No Paper

✓ **Receive $15 Upon Account Opening***
✓ Free Online Bill Pay*
✓ Free MyOnlineBanking
✓ Free Direct Deposit Services
✓ Free Identity Guard*

TEL: **233-2265** FAX: **233-3227**

* Online Bill Pay will be free for the first three (3) months, and $5.95 a month thereafter. Identity Guard will be free for the first 6 months, and $4.99 a month thereafter. Enrollment in MyOnlineBanking required. $15 bonus for account opening is for a limited time only and will expire on 3/31/2009.

BankPacific
Where Others Put Branches, We Place Roots.
www.bankpacific.com Member FDIC

My WAVE raffle results

Hopwood Junior High School and the MY Wave Club held a Cultural Day raffle on Jan. 23, 2009. Prizes must be redeemed by March 2, 2009, Monday, at 3pm. If you have a winning ticket, contact Epi Cabrera (237-3444); Frank Angel (237-3486); or Fred Salavaria (237-3445).
Here is the list of donors, prizes, winning raffle tickets and the names of winners:

DONOR	PRIZE	TICKET#	TICKET NAME
My Wave Club	Grand Prize: $700 cash	28581	No name
My Wave Club	Baby Grand Prize: $500 cash	17961	No name
My Wave Club	2nd Baby Grand Prize: $300 cash	16462	Renee B. Sansano
Sand Castle	1 Cocktail Show for 2	24663	Watanabe Masahiro
IT&E	1 Nokia 6155 with $10 load	9534	Kawai' Ana K. Camacho
Pacific Islands Club	2 Water Park Passes with Magellan Lunch	28243	Zeny Fieldad
Pacific Islands Club	2 Water Park Passes with Magellan Lunch	35321	Daryl Metran
Mr./Mrs. Neil Metran	1 I-pod shuffle	02694	No name
Daphne DL Cruz	1 Live Goat	40752	Masanori Takahashi
Saipan Shipping Co. Inc.	$75 cash	42605	Nicolette Villagomez
Mike's Jewelry	1 14K necklace	22653	Jo Ann Teregeyo
Mike's Jewelry	1 14K necklace	28633	Nestor Galura
Saipan Computer Services	1 Logitech wireless mouse & number pad	35102	Melinda Regis
Torres Brothers	$50 cash	03251	Alexis Cabrera
Spectrum Electric	$50 cash	02656	No name
Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods	$50 Gift Certificate	39486	Christine Cruz
PC Outlet	$50 Gift Certificate	04255	Pilar Castro
Hyatt Regency Saipan	1 lunch buffet for 2 at Kili Café'	13488	Anika Q. Camacho
Coral Ocean Point	1 Dinner for 2 at Sango Restaurant	39380	Frank Pangelinan
Yvonnalynn Salalila	1 Coffee Maker (8-10 cups)	38773	Forrester
Frank Angel	One Cooler	21384	Cecilia Pagapular
Mr./Mrs. Raymond Sablan	One case Quarter leg	12978	No name
Raynalynn Sablan	One case Quarter leg	33981	Imelda Maregrieko
National Office Supply	$25 Gift Certificate	23013	No name
National Office Supply	$25 Gift Certificate	28688	Nestor Galura
Payless Shoe Source	$25 Gift Certificate	22880	Edel Marie Mendiola
Yvonnalynn Salalila	$25 Cash Donation	2142	Domingo Salavaria Jr.
Yoshi Yagi	1 Sack of Rice	30995	Saipan Stevedore Co.
World Resort	1 Lunch Buffet for 2	9364	Edlin Orak
World Resort	1 Lunch Buffet for 2	1577	Rusyln B. Saito
MCV Broadband	$20 Gift Certificate	35830	Nicko Martin
Yvonnalynn Salalila	1 Toaster (4 slots)	28327	Jing
Hertz Rent A Car	$20 Gift Certificate to Truongs	23895	TJ Torres
Hertz Rent A Car	$20 Gift Certificate to Truongs	2291	Bernice Cepeda
Fiesta: Resort & Spa	Buffet for 1 at Mai Restaurant	21103	Paul G. Puguon
Megabyte/MegaZone	Game Passes	38800	Rex Vea
Fred Salavaria	One Case Soba	32307	Antonio Blanco
Mercedes & Alexis P. Cabrera	One Case Soft Drink	32109	Rudy Turlao
Jonathan DLGuerrero	2 Cases of Sunkist Fruit Drinks	39469	Christina Cruz
Maria Caringal	One Case Soft Drink	19126	Jo Anne Hernandez
Gilda Ogarro	One Case Soft Drink	9397	Bernard P. Baysa
Shannon Lely	1 Case Hi-C	35370	Bern Tolentino
Kelly Demapan	1 Case of Soba	2617	No name
Jaelyn Maldangesang	1 Case of Soba	9543	Linda
Jeralyn Castillo	1 Case Sunkist Fruit Drink	44207	Renierose M. Danganan
Kenneth Babauta	1 Case Sunkist Fruit Drink	3079	Alexis Cabrera
Jenny Rose Butalon	1 Case Sunkist Drink	16679	Ledz de Lun
Consolation Prize#1/Maria C.	1 Case of Water	42534	Ronnie Guevarra
Consolation Prize#2/T. Williams	Picnic Basket	1013	Dr. Fred Hill

Saipan to host 5-day environmental conference

Hundreds of delegates are expected to arrive on Saipan in June for this year's Pacific Islands Environment Conference, which is a venue to examine environmental challenges and issues facing the Pacific islands.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Pacific Islands Office will host the conference on June 22 to 26.

"The conference will be attended by 200 to 300 environmental officials and representatives from the U.S., Guam, American Samoa, CNMI, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and other countries in the Pacific," said Reina Camacho, public information officer at the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality.

DEQ is still in the early planning stages for the five-day conference.

As with previous conferences, sessions will discuss strategies to make a difference in protecting the island environments and provide island leaders with the latest ideas and tools on preserving fragile ecosystems. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

CONGRATULATIONS! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guadalupe Tenorio Attao graduated cum laude from the Boise State University with a bachelor's degree in Psychology on Dec. 19, 2008. Guadalupe is currently pursuing her master's degree in Psychology at the same university. She is the youngest of six children of Jesus and Ramona T. Attao of Navy Hill, Saipan.

BECOME A NURSE IN 11 MONTHS!
Emmanuel College
Emmanuel College announces its registration of its Third Cohort of Licensed Vocational / Practical Nursing Program.
For information on the Licensed Vocational Nursing Program at Emmanuel College, please call 235-5432 / 5139 or you may visit Emmanuel Campus at Pacific Towers in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.
DISCOVER A WORLD OF NURSING POSSIBILITIES AT EMMANUEL COLLEGE
Joan Carmel Cabrera, GN
Anna Victoria Ga, GN
Pioneer Class
www.emmanuelcollegecnmi.com

Commonwealth 0f the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-006

CONSTRUCTION OF PAVILIONS AT CHALAN KANOA BEACH PARK, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Pavilions at Chalan Kanoa Beach Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after January 23, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to one Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procuredures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on February 10, 2009, 1:00 p.m. local time at the project site located at Chalan Kanoa Beach Park behind Townhouse, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on February 13, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-006"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time February 18, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time February 18, 2009. and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 18, 2009, and must be received no later than February 27, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00 p.m. local time, March 04, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. local time, on February 23, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certificate (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty **(120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

HANNAM MARKET 288-9290/3639 | KAGMAN MARKET 256-4989 | SUPER DISCOUNT STORE 256-8949

OPEN 24 HRS

FEBRUARY SPECIAL SALE

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS

JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 5, 2009

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SELECTED ITEMS ARE LIMITED PER CUSTOMER

Quarter Leg Chicken Limit 2 Case — SALE $18.99 22 lbs. / SALE $20.99 33 lbs.

Sun-Land Whole Young Chicken SALE $33.99/case Limit 1

Pork Spareribs BBQ or Adobo Cut SALE $15.50 20 lbs. Limit 2

Baby Ribs SALE $12.99 10 lbs. Limit 2

Gusto Smoked SALE $1.99 /lb.

Beef Back Ribs Limit 2 SALE $24.99/20 lbs.

Lotus Brand Rice SALE $23.99 50 lbs.

Diamond G Calrose Rice Limit 1 SALE $32.99 50 lbs.

Royal Thai Lady Rice Limit 1 SALE $27.99 50 lbs.

Salad Oil 5 Galllon Limit 1 SALE $26.99

Milk Fish SALE $1.39 / lb. $54.99/case

Tilapia 99¢/lb. SALE $37.99/case

Ichiban SALE $7.99 Original Limit 1 Case

Spam All Flavors SALE $1.99/each Limit 1 Case

Black Label Luncheon Loaf SALE $1.39/each Limit 12

Rits Soda All Flavor SALE $10.99/case Limit 1 Case

Miller Lite SALE $22.99/case Limit 1 Case

HITE Beer SALE $14.50/case Limit 1 Case

FROZEN FOOD

Chopped Ham SALE $10.99/5 lbs. $17.99/10 lbs.

Pork Riblets SALE $10.99/cs.

Beef Rib Finger SALE $2.89/lb.

Ground Pork SALE $17.99/10 lbs.

Ground Beef SALE $15.99/10 lbs.

Pork Butt SALE $1.79/lb.

Chamorro Sausage SALE $3.99/pkg.

Miller Sausage SALE $14.99/pkg.

Hoffy Portuguese Sausage SALE $1.99/pkg.

Family Bag Special

Pork Hocks	$8.95
Pork Belly	$10.95
Pork Adobo	$9.95
Pork Spareribs	$6.95
Pork Chops	$13.95
Beef Stew	$13.95
Beef Backribs	$8.95
Beef Shortribs	$15.95
Stewing Chicken	$5.95
Quarter Leg s	$5.95

Chicken Winggets SALE $9.99/5 lbs.

Kam Yen Jan Chinese Style Sausage SALE $3.49/pkg.

Hoffy Hot Smoked Sausage SALE $6.99/44 oz.

Bar S Bacon SALE $2.49/pkg.

Bar S Hot Links SALE $1.99/4 pcs.

Bar S Jumbo Franks SALE $1.05/pkg.

Turkey Tail SALE $17.99/cs.

Smoked Salmon Collar SALE $25.99/10 lbs.

Cut Crab SALE $5.95/box

Green Mussels SALE $4.99/5 lbs.

Vega Shrimp SALE $4.99/lb.

PRODUCE

Potato (Jumbo) SALE 79¢/lb.

Orange SALE 89¢/lb.

Orange Cielo SALE $3.99/lb.

Cantaloupe SALE $1.29/lb.

Garlic SALE 69¢/pack-4 pcs.

Red Onion SALE 99¢/lb.

Onion SALE 59¢/lb.

Banana SALE 99¢/lb.

U.S. Eggs Extra Large SALE $2.09/doz.

GROCERY ITEMS

Hormel Chili (No Beans) SALE $1.59 Limit 12

Hormel Corned Beef Hash SALE $1.79 Limit 12

Sunflower Tuna SALE $1.09 Limit 12

Sunflower Mackerel SALE $1.49

Coco Tuna SALE 99¢ Limit 12

Coco Mackerel SALE $1.29/each

Ligo Sardines Limit 12 SALE 3 for $1.00

Armour Vienna Sausage SALE 59¢/each

Ox & Plam Corned Beef Limit 12 $2.29/each

Del Monte Kernel Corn SALE 69¢

Del Monte Fruit Cocktail SALE $3.99

Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce All Flavors SALE $1.29

Hosen Fruit Cocktail SALE $3.95

Beach Cliff Sardines SALE 79¢ Limit 12

Carnation Milk SALE 99¢

Golden State Vinegar SALE $2.99

Sugar SALE $1.59/kg.

Kikkoman Limit 1 Cs. (6 bts) SALE $3.79 1.6 Ltr.

Fresco Cooking Oil SALE $7.99

Argo Cornstarch SALE 79¢

Excellent Rice Stick 80 oz. SALE 99¢

Vlassic Dill Pickles $6.99 Whole $5.95 Whole

Chamorro Punch SALE $8.99

Seoksu Water 500 ml. SALE $5.99/case

Sunkist All Flavors SALE $5.95/case

Kool Aid 34 Qrt. SALE $5.99

Nestea 36 qts. SALE $6.99

Zest-O Juice All Flavors SALE $1.95

Morton Salt SALE 69¢

Ventura Mayo 1 Gallon SALE $9.95

Ajinomoto 1 lb. SALE 99¢

Lemon Powder SALE $4.49

Jin Korean Soy Sauce 1.8 Ltr. SALE $9.95

Kimchee Base 450 G. SALE $4.95

Folgers Classic Roast 39 oz. SALE $7.99

NON-FOOD

Charmin Tissue 24 Rolls SALE $5.99

Bounty 8 Rolls SALE $7.95

Toilet Tissue 10 Rolls SALE $3.95

Soft & Gentle 24 Rolls SALE $8.99

Jubilee Tissue 24 Rolls SALE $8.99

Korean Facial Tissue 3 Packs SALE $4.50

Cottonelle Tissue 12 Rolls SALE $3.99

Ariel 3 kg. SALE $5.99

Gain Liquid Detergent SALE $4.99

Suavitel 850 ml. SALE $1.59

Adult Diapers SALE $7.95

Joy Dishwashing Liquid 90 oz. SALE $5.99

Safeguard Bar Soap SALE 59¢/each

Clorox 96 oz. SALE $2.99

Pensonic Emergency Light with Fan SALE $33.95

Luvs Diapers Big Box All Sizes SALE $16.95

Suave Shampoo & Conditioner 15 oz. 2 for $2.50

White Rain Shampoo & Conditioner 590 ml. 2 for $2.95

Axxion Foam Plates 125 ct. SALE $6.95

Butane Gas SALE $21.99/case Limit 2

EVERYDAY LOW PRICE • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST • PRICES CHANGES WITHOUT NOTICE

Business

Govt to report on jobless claims as layoffs rise

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government will provide a snapshot of the battered labor market Thursday when it reports how many people filed first-time claims for jobless benefits last week.

Economists forecast that about 575,000 initial claims were filed, down from 589,000 the previous week. Still, last week's figure matched a level hit in November that was the highest in 26 years, although the labor force has grown by about half since then.

The Labor Department's report comes as large corporations from virtually all sectors of the economy are announcing massive layoffs.

The latest to do so is Starbucks Corp., which said Wednesday that it would cut 6,700 jobs. The coffee company also said it would close 300 underperforming stores, on top of 600 it already planned to shut down.

Time Warner Inc.'s AOL division said Wednesday that it is cutting up to 700 jobs, or about 10 percent of the online unit's work force. IBM Corp., meanwhile, has cut thousands of jobs in its sales, software and hardware divisions in the past week, without announcing specific numbers.

Boeing, Pfizer, Home Depot and other U.S. corporate titans have announced tens of thousands of job cuts this week alone.

Companies have announced more than 125,000 layoffs in January, according to an Associated Press tally.

The economy is likely to continue to shed jobs for the rest of this year, even if an economic stimulus bill pushed by President Barack Obama is approved, economists said.

AP

Handyman Ed Frantz uses a sign to advertise his services while waiting in the parking lot of a Home Depot in Las Vegas, Friday Jan. 23, 2009.

Peanut recall grows as feds find problems at plant

WASHINGTON (AP)—The salmonella outbreak spawned one of the largest ever product recalls Wednesday by a Georgia peanut plant where federal inspectors reported finding roaches, mold, a leaking roof and other sanitary problems.

Managers at the Blakely, Ga. plant owned by Peanut Corp. of America continued shipping peanut products even after they were found to contain salmonella.

Peanut Corp. expanded its recall Wednesday to all peanut products produced at the plant since Jan. 1, 2007. The company is relatively small, but its peanut paste is an ingredient in hundreds of other food products, from ice cream, to Asian-style sauces, to dog biscuits. Major national brands of peanut butter are not affected.

A senior lawmaker in Congress and Georgia's agriculture commissioner called for a criminal investigation of the company, but the Food and Drug Administration said such a step is premature while its own food safety investigation continues.

Madoff paper trail leads to NYC warehouse

NEW YORK (AP)—The paper trail in the Bernard Madoff fraud case has led investigators to a warehouse containing boxes and file cabinets stuffed with documents that could reveal more clues about what may be the largest Ponzi scheme ever, a government official said Wednesday.

The Queens building was used to store old records from Madoff's investment firm, located across the East River in Manhattan, said the official, who wasn't authorized to discuss the case publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Investigators have been at the undisclosed site sifting through files for possible evidence, said the official, who didn't know how long they had been there.

City finance records indicate that Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities has leased third-floor space in an office building in the Astoria neighborhood in Queens. It's unclear whether the lease is current.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian stocks gain after House passes stimulus bill

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Asian markets advanced Thursday, with Hong Kong jumping more than 5 percent in a catch-up rally, as the U.S. House of Representatives approved a $819 billion stimulus bill that investors hope will help lift the American economy out of its worst crisis in decades. Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average rose 72.47 points, or 0.9 percent, to 8,178.05 even as new data showed that retail sales in the world's second-largest economy sank the most in nearly four years in December. Hong Kong's Hang Seng leaped 704.64 points, or 5.6 percent, to 13,283.24 after being closed for three days for the Lunar New Year. Mainland China's markets are closed all week. South Korea's Kospi gained 0.7 percent and Australia's main index rose 0.4 percent. Sentiment in Asia got a boost as President Barack Obama's massive stimulus package moved closer to becoming a reality.

Chip maker Qualcomm's 1Q profit plunges 56 percent

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Chip maker Qualcomm Inc. slashed its forecasts for revenue and operating income Wednesday as it reported its fiscal first-quarter income plunged 56 percent. The company said the global economic slowdown and financial crisis has slowed demand for its chips that run many of the world's mobile phones. It said its financial investments have also taken a significant hit. The San Diego-based company lowered its estimate for 2009 operating income to a range between $2.2 billion and $2.5 billion, from a range between $2.6 billion and $2.8 billion. It now expects 2009 revenue between $9.3 billion and $9.8 billion, down from its previous estimate of between $10.2 billion and $10.8 billion, and below an estimate of $10.23 billion among analysts polled by Thomson Reuters. Qualcomm said it would not estimate per-share earnings, as it has in the past, because financial markets are too volatile to predict how its investments will fare.

Oil dips as investors weigh rising inventories

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices dropped below $42 a barrel Thursday in Asia as rising U.S. crude inventories offset expectations a massive U.S. stimulus package will revive growth and consumer demand. Light, sweet crude for March delivery fell 54 cents to $41.64 a barrel by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 58 cents overnight to settle at $42.16. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a $819 billion stimulus plan Wednesday night aimed at spurring growth amid the worst recession in decades. The package, which includes tax cuts for individuals and businesses, should create or save more than 3 million jobs, President Barack Obama said after the vote. The Senate will begin debate on the bill next week. But a fourth week of soaring oil inventories dampened expectations that the stimulus plan could spark crude demand.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment of the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezones)

We ask for your comments on proposed amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps, sheets 23 (San Vicente), 24 (San Antonio), and 26 (As Lito).

A public hearing will be held:
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2009
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Zoning Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The proposed map changes may be viewed at
Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan
Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps.

Comments on the proposals may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and must be received at the Zoning Office by 12:00 pm, Wednesday, February 25, 2009. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

O2 Scuba & Resort, Inc.

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on Conditional Use Permit Application, No. 2008-2429, by O2 Scuba & Resort, Inc. The application is for a hotel and other related resort activities for hotel guests.

Date: February 13, 2009 (Friday)
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

The conditional use application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, February 16, 2009. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Friday, February 13, 2009 at 6:00 pm, Saipan Zoning Office, 2nd floor of Joeten Dandan. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Election of Officers, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
B. Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
C. Public Hearings. Conditional Use file 2009-0380, GMJ's Corporation; Conditional Use file 2008-2429, O2 Scuba and Resort, Inc.
D. Contested Cases. None
E. Permits, Rezones, and Related Actions - Review and Decide
   1. 2008-0488, Preliminary Plat Major Subdivision, Lot 1479-5-2-R1
   2. 2008-2429, Conditional Use, O2 Scuba and Resort, Inc.
   3. 2009-0380, Conditional Use, GMJ's Corporation
   4. Review and approve amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps.
      a. **Map 09.** Rezone lots TR# 22595-1,-2,-3,-4,-5,-6,-7,R-2 from RU to VC, file 2008-2396.
      b. **Map 23.** Rezone lot 443-1-1 from RU to VC, file 2008-1624.
      c. **Map 23.** Rezone TR 21357, H-218-1, from VR to VC, file 2008-1624.
      d. **Map 27.** Rezone lot 005 I 284 from VR to VC, file 2008-1717.
F. Old Business. None
G. New Business.
   1. Election of Zoning Board Officers
   2. Review new rezone proposals and approve advertising for public comment
   3. Review and approve annual report to the Governor, Legislature and to the SNILD
   4. Review and approve final progress report on OIA grant
H. Public Comment
I. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
J. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

TOYS 20% - 50% OFF (SELECTED ONLY)

Sara Market II

CAPITOL HILL • 322-9596

Payday Special

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS 10% - 25% OFF (SELECTED ONLY)

JANUARY 30 TO FEBRUARY 9, 2009 • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

SHOP & LEAVE TOTALLY COMPLETE

FOOD STAMPS WELCOME • FRIENDLY SERVICE • EVERYDAY LOW PRICE

SELECTED ITEMS ARE LIMITED PER CUSTOMER • PRICES CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Leg Quarter
22 LBS. $17.99
33 LBS. $21.99

Whole Chicken
LIMIT 1 CASE
$32.99

Young Spare Ribs
10 LBS.
$13.99

Pork Spareribs
BBQ Adobo Cut
20 LBS.
$15.99

Diamond G Calrose Rice 50 LBS.
$32.99

Beef Spare Ribs
20 LBS.
$23.99

Pork Riblets
10 LBS.
$11.99

Turkey Tail
20 LBS.
$12.99

Jasmine Lotus Rice
50 LBS. (LIMIT 1 SACK)
$24.99

Ichiban
Limit 2 CASES
$7.99 /CASE

FROZEN MEAT • SEAFOOD • PRODUCE • GROCERIES

Kool-Aid 32 oz. $7.99

Tang 22 qts. $5.99

Nestea Iced Tea 36 qts. $7.99

Master A1 Tuna limit 6 $1.19

Spam All Kinds 12 oz. LIMIT 12 LESS SALT & REGULAR ONLY $1.99; $2.25 ALL OTHER FLAVORS

Sun Flower Mackarel 15 oz. $1.59

Beach Cliff Sardines 3.75 oz. 79¢

Coffee-Mate Creamer 50 oz. $6.99

Folgers Classic Roast 39 oz. $7.99

Ocean Best Crabmeat Imitation 1 lb. $2.49

Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5 oz. LIMIT 6 $2.29

Golden State Vinegar 1 Gal. $2.99

Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup 10.7 oz. 89¢

Carnation Evaporated Milk 12 oz. 99¢

Ground Beef
5 LBS. $9.99
10 LBS. $16.95

Pike Mackarel Family Bag $5.95

Mackarel Family Bag $5.95

Cream of Mushroom 10 3/4 oz. 99¢

DM Beef Stew 15 oz. 2 FOR $3.00

Chorizo 64 oz. - 4 lbs. $25.99

Ace of Diamonds Tuna LIMIT 12 Cans $1.09

Gusto Ham 10 lbs. $16.99

Miller Sausage 5 lbs. $14.95

Chamorro Sausage Reg/Hot 1 lb. $3.99

Black Label Luncheon Meat 12 oz. $1.39

Libby's Vienna Sausage 5 oz. 59¢

Hormel Chili No Beans 15 oz. 2 FOR $3.00

Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash 15 oz. $1.79

Bar-S Bacon 1 lb. $2.49

Bar-S Hotdog 1 lb. $1.05

Bar-S Ham 10 lbs. $17.99

Pauls Milk 1 Litre $16.99 /CASE

Real Fresh Milk (Reg. & Low Fat) $17.99 /CASE

Vlasic Dill Pickles (Spears) 1 Gal. $5.99

Maseca 4.4 lbs. $3.99

Moist Deluxe All Flavors 18.25 oz. 2 FOR $3.00

Peeled Shrimp SC Brand 1 lb. $2.99

Seafood Mix Log Feng Brand 1 lb. $2.59

Blue Crab Section Per Box $8.95

Kikkoman 1.6 L. $3.79

Lemon Powder 5.29 oz. $4.99

Vegetable Oil 5 Gal. LIMIT 1 $28.99

Crisco Shortening 3 lbs. $4.99

Vega Shrimp 1 lb. $5.99

Green Mussels 2 lbs. $4.99

Milk Fish $1.59

Gold Medal Flour 5 lbs. $2.59

Sugar 2 kg. $1.49

Filma Cooking Oil 5 Litre $8.99

Platinum Napkin 360 cnts. $3.99

Tilapia 99¢

U.S. Extra Large Eggs Dozen $2.29

Chicken Wings 5.5 lbs. $9.99 /PACK

Korean Butane Gas LIMIT 1 Case $22.99 /CASE

Morton Iodized Salt 26 oz. 59¢

Foam Plates 125 ct. $6.99

Cottonelle Single 24 rolls Tissue $8.99

Kraft Cool Whip
8 OZ. $1.99
16 OZ. $3.50

Philadelphia 8 oz. $2.39

Candle Plain with color $12.95 /CASE

Horse Shampoo 1 qrt. 2 FOR $3.00

Diamond Foil 200 Sq. Ft. $5.99

Enfamil 25.7 $28.99

Spoon & Fork No Brand Name 100 cnts. $1.29

Shasta Drinks 112oz All Flavor (warm only) $12.99 /CASE

Garlic $89¢ 1Bundle

Onion $79¢ PER POUND

Dragon Veg. Oil 1 Gal. $7.99

Crisco Pure Corn Oil 1 Gal. $9.99

Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only $5.99

Del Monte Fiesta 3062g Fruit Cocktail $4.99

Bounty 15 Rolls $19.99

Coke Regular 24/Case Warm Only $12.99

Pepsi Regular Warm Only $16.99 /CASE

NON-FOOD

SOFT 'N GENTLE (12 ROLLS)	$4.50
CHARMIN (24 ROLLS)	$8.99
GAIN POWDER (120 LOADS)	$16.95
GAIN LIQUID (300 OZ.)	$16.95
GAIN LIQUID (200 OZ.) ORIGINAL ONLY	$11.95
JOY ULTRA LEMON DISHWASHING LIQUID (90 OZ.)	$6.99
SUAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 OZ.)	2 FOR $3.00

FAMILY BAG SPECIAL

BEEF SHANK	$10.95
FLANK STEAK	$16.95
PORK ADOBO	$10.95
PORK CHOP	$11.95
PORK BELLY	$11.95
STEWING CHICKEN	$6.95
TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG)	$4.99

U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS	$13.99
BEEF BACK RIBS	$7.95
BEEF OXTAIL	$16.95
BEEF STEW	$12.95
RIBEYE STEAK	$17.95
BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK	$14.95
SMOKED HAM STEAK	$12.95
PORK BUTT	$10.95

Budweiser / Budlight 24/Case Warm Only $24.99

Chamorro Punch 1 Gal. $8.99

Nation

House OKs $819B stimulus bill with GOP opposition

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a swift victory for President Barack Obama, the Democratic-controlled House approved a historically huge $819 billion stimulus bill Wednesday night with spending increases and tax cuts at the heart of the young administration's plan to revive a badly ailing economy. The vote was 244-188, with Republicans unanimous in opposition despite Obama's frequent pleas for bipartisan support.

"This recovery plan will save or create more than three million new jobs over the next few years," the president said in a written statement released moments after the House voted. Still later, he welcomed congressional leaders of both parties to the White House for drinks as he continued to lobby for the legislation.

Earlier, Obama declared, "We don't have a moment to spare" as congressional allies hastened to do his bidding in the face of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Obama

The vote sent the bill to the Senate, where debate could begin as early as Monday on a companion measure already taking shape. Democratic leaders have pledged to have legislation ready for Obama's signature by mid-February.

A mere eight days after Inauguration Day, Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the events heralded a new era. "The ship of state is difficult to turn," said the California Democrat. "But that is what we must do. That is what President Obama called us to do in his inaugural address."

With unemployment at its highest level in a quarter-century, the banking industry wobbling despite the infusion of staggering sums of bailout money and states struggling with budget crises, Democrats said the legislation was desperately needed.

"Another week that we delay is another 100,000 or more people unemployed. I don't think we want that on our consciences," said Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and one of the leading architects of the legislation.

Republicans said the bill was short on tax cuts and contained too much spending, much of it wasteful, and would fall far short of administration's predictions of job creation.

ACROSS THE NATION

LAPD: Dad in family's murder-suicide awash in debt

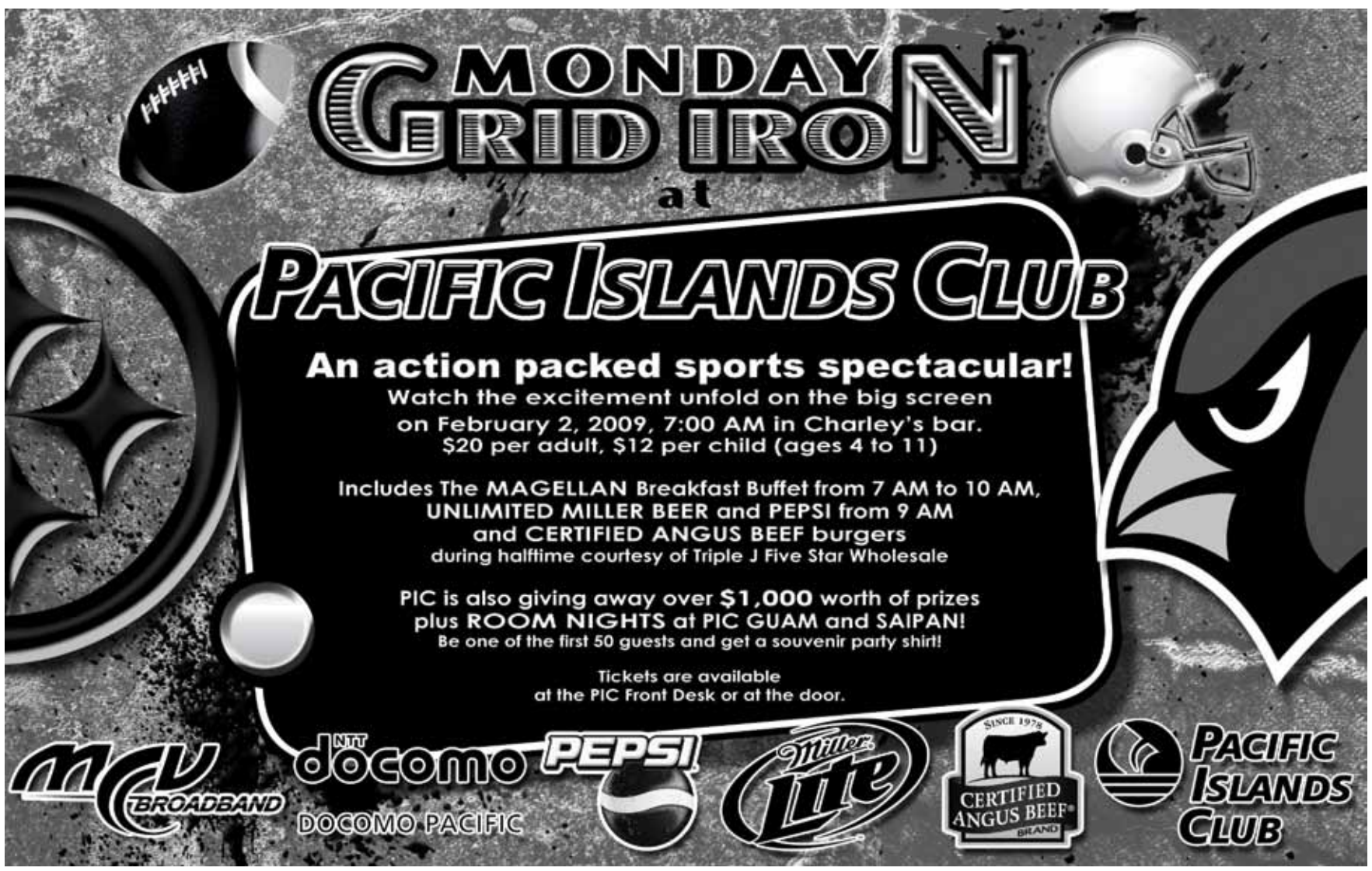
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles police say a man who apparently shot himself after killing his wife and their five children was awash in debt and planning to leave California. Detective David Cortez said Wednesday that Ervin Lupoe was at least one month behind on his mortgage. He says the 40-year-old Lupoe owed at least $15,000 to the Internal Revenue Service and thousands more on a line of credit. Lupoe and his wife, Ana, recently were fired from their hospital jobs after being investigated for lying about their income to qualify for cheaper child care. Cortez says Lupoe planned to take his family to his brother-in-law in Garden City, Kan. The family's vehicle was packed with children's clothing and snow chains. The bodies of Lupoe and his family were found Tuesday.

More than a million wait in icy darkness across US

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Well over a million people shivered in ice-bound homes across the country Wednesday, waiting for warmer weather and for utility crews to restring power lines brought down by a storm that killed 23 as it took a snowy, icy journey from the Southern Plains to the East Coast. But with temperatures plunging, utility officials warned that it could be mid-February before electricity is restored to some of the hardest-hit places. The worst of the power failures were in Kentucky, Arkansas and Ohio. Just getting to their source was difficult for utility crews. Ice-encrusted tree limbs and power lines blocked glazed roads, and cracking limbs pierced the air like popping gunfire as they snapped. On Wednesday night, President Barack Obama declared federal emergencies in Arkansas and Kentucky, clearing the way for the two states to receive federal aid.

Postmaster General: Mail days may need to be cut

WASHINGTON (AP)—Massive deficits could force the post office to cut out one day of mail delivery, the postmaster general told Congress on Wednesday, in asking lawmakers to lift the requirement that the agency deliver mail six days a week. If the change happens, that doesn't necessarily mean an end to Saturday mail delivery. Previous post office studies have looked at the possibility of skipping some other day when mail flow is light, such as Tuesday. Faced with dwindling mail volume and rising costs, the post office was $2.8 billion in the red last year. "If current trends continue, we could experience a net loss of $6 billion or more this fiscal year," Postmaster General John E. Potter said in testimony for a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs subcommittee. Total mail volume was 202 billion items last year, over 9 billion less than the year before, the largest single volume drop in history.


MONDAY
GRID IRON
at
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB
An action packed sports spectacular!
Watch the excitement unfold on the big screen
on February 2, 2009, 7:00 AM in Charley's bar.
$20 per adult, $12 per child (ages 4 to 11)
Includes The MAGELLAN Breakfast Buffet from 7 AM to 10 AM,
UNLIMITED MILLER BEER and PEPSI from 9 AM
and CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF burgers
during halftime courtesy of Triple J Five Star Wholesale
PIC is also giving away over $1,000 worth of prizes
plus ROOM NIGHTS at PIC GUAM and SAIPAN!
Be one of the first 50 guests and get a souvenir party shirt!
Tickets are available
at the PIC Front Desk or at the door.
MCV BROADBAND
NTT docomo
DOCOMO PACIFIC
PEPSI
Miller Lite
SINCE 1978
CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF BRAND
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Muslim group flees Myanmar but faces more woe

SABANG, Indonesia (AP)—The bearded farmer wept in his hospital bed as he recounted a harrowing six-month journey that brought him from the isolated country of Myanmar to this remote island in the Indian Ocean. Nur Mohammad, a member of the Rohingya Muslim minority group, said he was forced to work for the Myanmar army, after being detained and tortured without charge. When he fled that country, he said he was exploited by Bangladeshi human traffickers, beaten by Thai officials, and then forced out to sea in an overcrowded boat that nearly sank off Indonesia's coast. And his ordeal is not over. The 37-year-old Muslim, who is being treated for internal bleeding and trauma, faces possible deportation by the very people who plucked him from the water. "I would rather die here," Mohammad told The Associated Press, describing the abuse in Myanmar against the Rohingya, who for generations have been denied citizenship and reportedly face torture, religious persecution and forced labor under the ruling junta. "If I'm sent back, I am sure authorities will kill me."

Thai court convicts 66 migrants of illegal entry

RANONG, Thailand (AP)—A Thai court on Wednesday convicted 66 barefoot, disheveled migrants detained at sea of illegally entering the country, raising the prospect they could be sent back to Myanmar despite fears they would be persecuted there. A Ranong provincial court judge sentenced each defendant to five days in prison after none of them was able to pay a 1,000 baht ($30) fine. Four were brought to the court from the hospital, one carried by two men because his legs were broken. The Thai navy detained the Rohingya migrants on Monday after their rickety boat was found adrift in the Andaman Sea off Thailand's southwestern coast. The Thai government contends the migrants do not qualify for refugee status, and a police official said they could be expelled after they served their sentence. "Please kill me here if you are going to send me back," migrant Kamal Hussein begged in an interview with The Associated Press. "If I go back, there is no land, no food, no safety. The (Myanmar) junta hates us."

China detains 81 people in Tibet crackdown

BEIJING (AP)—China is launching a security sweep in Tibet ahead of one of the region's most sensitive anniversaries in years, with state media saying at least 81 people have been detained. Tibet independence advocates said Wednesday the anti-crime crackdown in the Himalayan region appeared aimed at intimidating Tibetans ahead of the 50th anniversary of the failed uprising that saw the Dalai Lama flee into exile. China has been preparing for the possibility of more unrest in Tibet since deadly rioting in the capital Lhasa on March 14 last year sparked the biggest anti-government protests among Tibetans in decades—and a major military crackdown.

Philippine official meets Red Cross kidnap victims

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine official failed to secure the release of three kidnapped Red Cross workers whom she met Wednesday in a southern stronghold of al-Qaida-linked militants.

Provincial Vice Gov. Lady Ann Sahidulla, who also heads the Red Cross in the region, said the workers were "fine and in good health" after they were snatched from their car at gunpoint on Jan. 15.

A photo of the meeting showed the three International Committee of the Red Cross workers from Switzerland, Italy and the Philippines standing with Sahidulla behind a tangle of coconut trees.

"It's a positive sign that this face-to-face contact took place," Alain Aeschlimann, the head of the Red Cross' Asia-Pacific operations, said in a statement.

Sahidulla's negotiating team failed to convince the kidnappers to release the captives without ransom and other conditions, Jolo Governor Sakur Tan said.

"Our policy is very clear—no ransom," Tan told The Associated Press by telephone.

Tan, who heads a task force overseeing the hostage crisis, said authorities knew where the captives were being held but declined to divulge details of the government's strategy to secure their release.

Philippine Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said last week the use of force was not an option "at this time" to free the hostages.

The Red Cross said it had previously been in contact with the three by telephone, including a call Wednesday. "They continue to sound calm and composed and say they are doing all right," said Aeschlimann.

The three workers—Andreas Notter, 38, of Switzerland; Eugenio Vagni, 62 of Italy; and Mary Jean Lacaba, 37, of the Philippines—were in Jolo, a predominantly Muslim region, to inspect a water sanitation project at the provincial jail. They were offered security escorts but declined, citing their agency's neutrality, Tan said.

The U.S. Embassy, meanwhile, warned Americans on Wednesday against traveling to the southern Philippines citing threats from kidnap gangs and terrorists. U.S. citizens were urged to take "extreme caution if traveling there," it said.

Kidnappers handed the three workers to Abu Sayyaf gunmen who have a stronghold in the dense jungles near Indanan township, Jolo provincial police chief Julasirim Kasim said.

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2009.

DATE: Friday, January 30, 2009
TIME: 3:00 PM
LOCATION: Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office
Public Library Annex Building, Tatachog, Rota

AGENDA

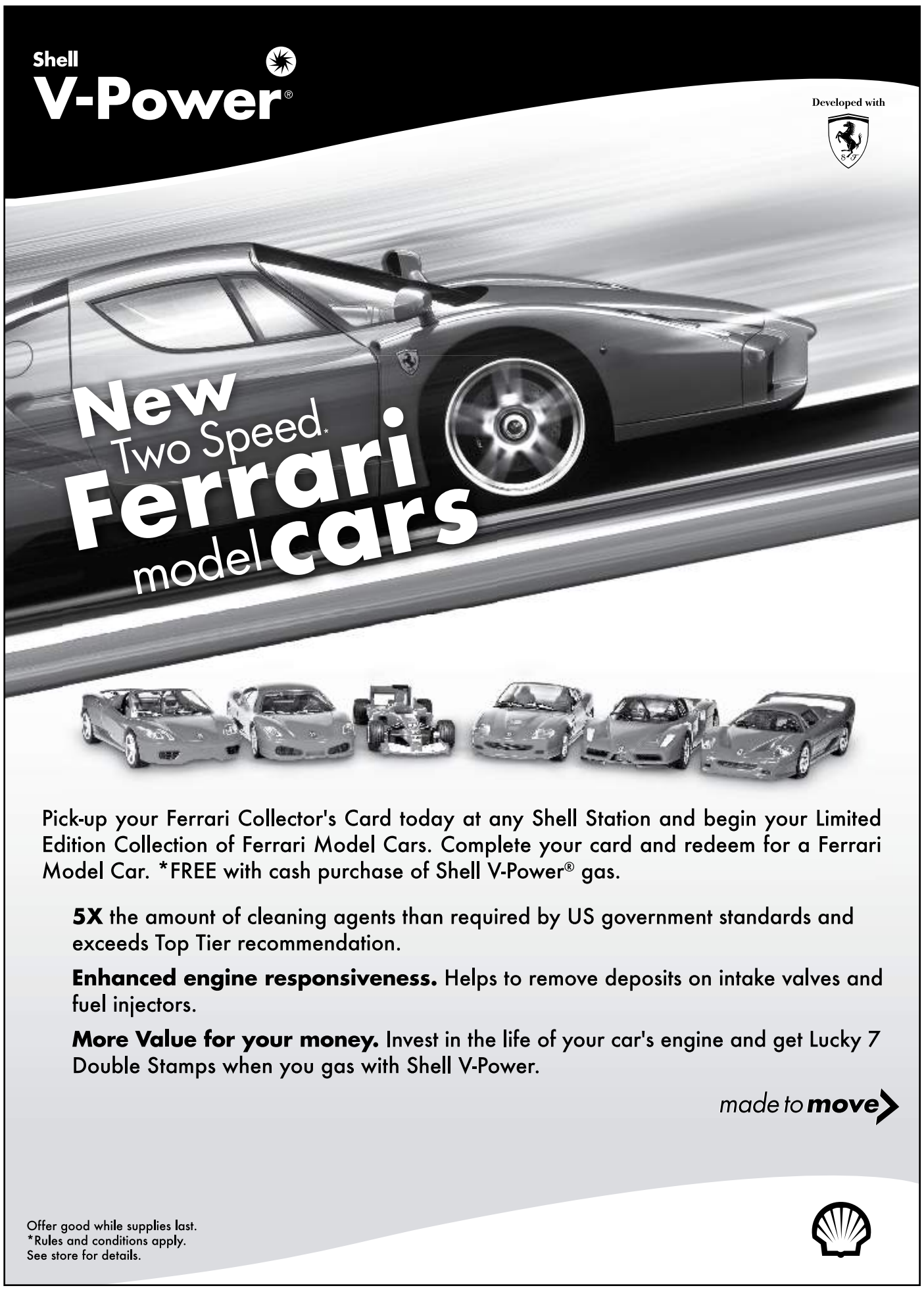
I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of Agenda
IV. Adoption of Minutes
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Old Business
1. Rules and Regulations
2. Technical Amendments

VII. New Business
1. RCGC Official Seal
2. Revised Budget
3. Website Development
4. Personnel Development
5. RCGC Bank Account
6. Investment Guide
7. RLD $20,000.00 Budget for RCGC

VIII. Miscellaneous
IX. Adjournment

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

DIEGO M. SONGAO **January 22, 2009**
Chairman


Shell
V-Power®
Developed with
New
Two Speed*
Ferrari
model cars
Pick-up your Ferrari Collector's Card today at any Shell Station and begin your Limited Edition Collection of Ferrari Model Cars. Complete your card and redeem for a Ferrari Model Car. *FREE with cash purchase of Shell V-Power® gas.
5X the amount of cleaning agents than required by US government standards and exceeds Top Tier recommendation.
Enhanced engine responsiveness. Helps to remove deposits on intake valves and fuel injectors.
More Value for your money. Invest in the life of your car's engine and get Lucky 7 Double Stamps when you gas with Shell V-Power.
made to move
Offer good while supplies last.
*Rules and conditions apply.
See store for details.

World

US envoy urges stronger Gaza truce amid airstrikes

JERUSALEM (AP)—As Israeli-Hamas violence flared, President Barack Obama's new Mideast envoy promised on Wednesday a vigorous push for peace, saying Gaza militants must end their weapons smuggling and the blockaded borders must be pried open if a cease-fire is to take hold.

George Mitchell held his first round of talks with regional leaders to determine the next steps the Obama administration would take toward reviving peace negotiations following Israel's blistering military offensive against Gaza's Islamic Hamas rulers.

But continued violence in Gaza underscored the more immediate priority—shoring up the 10-day-old cease-fire.

Hours before Mitchell arrived in Jerusalem, Israeli warplanes pounded Gaza smuggling tunnels in reprisal for a Palestinian bombing on Tuesday that killed an Israeli soldier. After he spoke, militants fired a rocket into Israel and the military responded with another airstrike. There was no immediate word of any casualties.

After talks in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Mitchell said consolidating the cease-fire was "of critical importance."

He said a longer-term truce should be based on "an end to smuggling and reopening of the crossings" into Gaza. Israel and Egypt have kept their borders with Gaza largely closed since the Islamic militant Hamas seized control of the territory in 2007.

WORLD BRIEFS

Arctic's thawing seas may bring new security risks

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)—NATO commanders and lawmakers from alliance nations were gathering Thursday to examine the risks posed by the thawing Arctic Circle and the prospect of standoffs among nations rushing to lay claim to the energy reserves there. The possibility of new shipping routes through once-frozen regions threatens to complicate already delicate relations between countries with competing claims to Arctic territory—particularly as previously inaccessible areas open to exploration for their abundant reserves of oil and natural gas. The U.S., Russia, Canada, Britain, China and several northern nations are all attempting to claim jurisdiction over Arctic territory.

Russia official says backing off on missile threat

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian military official said Wednesday that Moscow was backing off a threat to deploy missiles near Poland, according to a report that may have been aimed at testing President Barack Obama's intent to build a European missile shield. The private Interfax news agency cited an unidentified armed forces general staff official as saying Russia has suspended implementation of plans to deploy Iskander missiles in the Kaliningrad enclave because the Obama administration is not pushing hard to build an interceptor site next door in Poland.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

VANESSA C. IGINOEF/ VALERIO MENDIOLA CABRERA AND MARIANA ALDAN CABRERA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about June 21, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 26, 1985, under Document No. 85-1210 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 H 16, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 621 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 011 H 00, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 702, ON THE 1ST DAY OF MARCH, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$56,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

LORETTA K. DELEON GUERRERO ("Trustor"), on or about June 29, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 30, 1998, under Document No. 98-1942 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 010 K 05, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 892 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 010 K 01 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 87-2911 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$73,440.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

LARS I. PALACIOS AND ROSARIO E. PALACIOS (collectively "Trustor"), on or about September 17, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on September 19, 1985, under Document No. 85-1829 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NUMBER 005 I 145, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 1,056 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 005 I 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 16707, ON MARCH 11, 1983. THE DESCRIPTION BEING INCORPATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 10, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$85,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

LUCIA M. DELEON GUERRERO ("Trustor"), on or about May 23, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 23, 1985, under Document No. 85-0991 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 20472-6, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 907 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2064/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND COMMISSION AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14154, ON THE 26TH OF MARCH, 1982.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$121,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

GINA K. SOMORANG/ SOLEDAD K. SOMORANG AND MIGUEL O. SOMORANG (collectively "Trustor"), on or about May 02, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 03, 1984, under Document No. 84-686 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 005 I 548, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 885 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYE'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2084/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14232 DATED MAY 14, 1982, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$59,790.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

VINCENT N. ITAMAN/ ROSA L. TAMAN/ VINCENTE E. TAMAN (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 27, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 27, 1984 under Document No. 84-659 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NUMBER 005 I 531, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 745 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2084/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14232 DATED MAY 14, 1982, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 10, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$77,690.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Sheriff: Mich. man stages break-in, then calls 911

CAPAC, Mich. (AP)—Authorities in Michigan say a 24-year-old man broke into a gas station and called 911 on himself, claiming he wanted to go to jail to be with his incarcerated brother. St. Clair County Sheriff Tim Donnellon tells the Times Herald of Port Huron that deputies obliged, arresting the man early Tuesday. Authorities say the man called the emergency number about 4:30 a.m. from inside the gas station in Capac, a village northeast of Detroit. He said he had had broken in about 20 minutes earlier. The man's name wasn't released pending an arraignment.

Man accused of making drug deal at police station

EVERETT, Wash. (AP)—Everett police said a 24-year-old man picked the wrong place to try to deal drugs—a stall in the police station restroom. Police Sgt. Robert Goetz said the man was overheard Wednesday using a cellular telephone to try to sell Oxycodone, a prescription painkiller, and other drugs. Goetz said that as the man was leaving, he saw a gun-wearing plainclothes police sergeant who had overheard the call. The man asked if he was a probation officer. Goetz said the man admitted trying to deal drugs and turned over his stash. He was jailed for investigation of illegal drug possession and intent to sell.

Man allegedly rams police chief's truck 3 times

NORTHWOOD, N.D. (AP)—Northwood police said a man is in custody after ramming his car three times into the police chief's four-wheel drive squad truck. Police Chief Keith Prosser said he was trying to make a traffic stop Tuesday afternoon when a 58-year-old man turned his car around and rammed the chief's patrol vehicle.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

REGINA T. CASRO ("Trustor"), on or about October 23, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 23, 1984, under Document No. 84-2264 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NUMBER 005 B 09, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 407 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 005 B 00, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 832, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JUNE, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 24, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$76,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

JOHN ALAN C. KING AND CARLA MARIE DLC. KING (collectively"Trustor"), on or about November 08, 2002, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 12, 2003, under Document No. 03-2781 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 330 R 321 CONTAINING AS AREA OF 838 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS AS SHOWN ON THE DIVEISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 330 R 08 DATED NOVEMBER 19, 1996, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 97-746, DATED APRIL 02, 1996, THE DESRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCROPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 02, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$65,980.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

IGNACIO A. CABRERA AND ANA B. CABRERA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 20, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 21, 1983 under Document No. 83-90 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 006 T 18, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 901 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 006 T 01, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 18011, ON THE 7TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1983

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on December 10, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on February 13, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$79,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 09-006

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Laptop and Desktop Computer Systems & Accessories and others for Marianas High School (MHS).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-006" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **February 04, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-006" CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.***

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 09-007

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Laptop Computer Systems and Accessories for William S. Reyes Elementary School (WSRES).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-007" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **February 11, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-007" CONFIDENTIAL – Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.***

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Science & Technology

Google sets up broadband testing lab

NEW YORK (AP)—Google Inc. and two nonprofit partners Wednesday launched a Web site that lets consumers test their Internet connections to reveal possible interference and traffic management by service providers.

The site, Measurement Lab, addresses a need among academics who want to gather data on how Internet connections work in practice. While the workings of the core Internet "highways" are well known and standardized, it's difficult to find out what happens on the network of an Internet service provider, between the "highway" and the customer's home.

Internet service providers say they increasingly find it necessary to act as traffic cops on this stretch of the Internet to make sure that heavy users don't slow down their neighbors' connections. But the traffic management systems can have unintended consequences, and ISPs have been secretive about their workings for fear that subscribers will circumvent them. The Federal Communications Commission sanctioned Comcast Corp. last year for secretly stifling one particular form of traffic without telling subscribers.

One of the diagnostic tools on the M-Lab site, created by researchers in Germany, is specifically designed to detect interference of the kind that Comcast employed but has since abandoned.

Another tool is designed to detect whether certain types of traffic are being slowed. Cox Communications, the country's third-largest cable company, said this week it will test a system that temporarily slows some data to let more time-sensitive traffic through. That prompted skepticism from consumer groups that favor "Net Neutrality," which is the principle of equal treatment of Internet traffic.

Google spokesman Dan Martin said M-Lab's tools "could help users understand their connections, and would allow researchers to validate and explore what Cox is doing."

Microsoft's Songsmith better for comedy than music

Microsoft's latest offering, Songsmith, has found a cult following online, although probably not in the way its developers planned.

Designed to enable even the musically unskilled to craft their own tunes, Songsmith has become particularly effective for converting popular songs into a new strain of comedic viral videos.

In the spirit of "Guitar Hero" and other musical video games that turn mere mortals into rock stars, Songsmith provides an automatic musical accompaniment to whatever vocal track the user provides. The idea (demonstrated in a mock infomercial at http://tinyurl.com/songsmithvideo that itself has gone viral) is for people to use their own voices.

But other users have sicced Soundsmith on vocals ripped from hit records, and that's where the real fun begins.

Although Songsmith delivers what it promises, quality is optional. Users guide the program by choosing tempo, chord changes and musical styles ranging from jazz to reggae to '80s pop. The original song is usually rendered unrecognizable, and quite often, unlistenable. It doesn't help that the music has a flat, tinny quality reminiscent of karaoke or elevator music.

For added laughs, the creators of some online clips have taken the audio produced by Songsmith and melded it with a song's original music video. A quick search on YouTube yields some great Songsmith butcheries, such as a polka-bluegrass rendition of Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train." Or there is a refreshingly zippy take on Johnny Cash's "Hurt." And there is a version of Van Halen's "Running With the Devil" which must be heard to be believed.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q. Will I be able to record programs off the air with my VCR after the digital transition?

A. Though it's easy to overlook, VHS is not yet extinct. And the end of almost all analog television broadcasts on Feb. 17 won't doom videotape, either.

It will, however, make scheduling a recording an awkward exercise. After you buy the required digital-TV converter box ($20 or less with the coupon you can claim at dtv2009.gov or by calling 888-DTV-2009) and connect it to the VCR, you will only be able to change channels on the converter box. So before programming a recording, you'd need to tune the converter into the right station.

(As with TVs, this advice assumes you get a signal with an off-the-air antenna; if you pay for cable or satellite, you shouldn't have to change anything come February.)

If your budget allows it, you'll do better to retire the VCR in favor of a DVD recorder or DVD recorder/VCR hybrid with a digital tuner. In addition to bringing your movie viewing into the DVD era, this will allow you to program recordings in advance and record in much higher quality on DVDs. These devices sell for about $200, but beware of cheaper "line-in recording" models that don't include a tuner.

SI YU'US MA'ASE, GHILISOU, KINISOU CHAPUR, THANK YOU

To our many relatives and friends who came to share this very special moment with us as we said our farewell to our dearly beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and brother-in law

Juan Quitugua Kapileo

Your words of wisdom, encouragement, support and unconditional love during this very difficult time has shown us the light to hold dearly and to live on with loving memories of our dearly beloved. In our hearts, we will feel that emptiness which we all treasured infinitely, a father's love and presence always, but we are strengthened with the belief that he is resting peacefully with God.

We are forever grateful to you and shall always keep you close to our hearts.

JULITA SUDA KAPILEO, CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND THE FAMILY

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

GEORGE U. DIAZ
1st year

TOMASA U. & JOSE D. DIAZ
3rd year • 6th year

A year has gone by and George's voice, laughter, and jokes can still be heard and his warm and pleasant personality not forgotten. The love and care our parents instilled in our hearts have never faded.

In remembrance and celebrating their new lives with our Creator, we humbly invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers beginning on Wednesday, February 4th, 2009 with masses of intentions offered daily at 6:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church, Saipan followed with the recitation of the rosary at 7:30 p.m. at the residence of Mrs. Evelyn Flores Diaz in San Vicente.

On the ninth day, Thursday, February 12, 2009, rosary will be prayed at 5:30 p.m. followed immediately with the Eucharistic Celebration at San Vicente Church, Saipan. An appreciation dinner will be served at the residence of Mrs. Evelyn Flores Diaz in San Vicente.

Your presence, thoughts and most especially your prayers are sincerely appreciated.

EVELYN FLORES DIAZ
[Geolyn, George Jr., Joseph, Jeremiah, Geraldine, Jude and their families]

Life & Style

Celebrity parties going head-to-head at Super Bowl

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Kevin Costner signed on to host a glitzy Super Bowl party this year, but the truth is he doesn't really like parties all that much. Too much glad-handing, picture-taking and standing around.

The 54-year-old Hollywood star would much rather be up on stage with his band, Modern West, grinding out original tunes in a dark club somewhere, showing people how serious he really is about the music. So if you really want to get Costner to appear somewhere, invite the band, too. Playing live in the middle of the biggest weekend in sports is why he's coming to Tampa.

"It's clearly not the need for attention. I've had enough of that for a lifetime," Costner chuckles during a telephone interview. "It's no fun being a celebrity. I'd rather be a performer. I'd rather sing for my supper."

But attention is clearly the point for many of the celebrities who stage one of the glitzy, see-and-be-seen happenings that have become as much a part of Super Bowl week as the game itself. The Hollywood types are here, along with the hip-hop guys, dozens of current and former NFL stars, plenty of scantily clad models, prize fighters and assorted Kardashian sisters.

Ashton Kutcher and Lindsay Lohan are scheduled to be here. So is Snoop Dogg. Mike Ditka says he's bringing 100 former NFL stars with him.

The lousy economy this year led some regular party sponsors to cut back or pull out of the Super Bowl scene—Playboy and Sports Illustrated both bagged their annual affairs—but there's still enough going on in Tampa to keep the paparazzi busy all weekend.

Costner's bash—he's co-hosting with ex-New York Giant Michael Strahan—is going head-to-head on Saturday night with gigs by hip-hop artist T-Pain and rap mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs, along with an affair crawling with Playboy hotties called "Models and Bottles," and an event at a science museum hosted by boxer Antonio Tarver and rapper Nelly.

The night before is the Maxim magazine party, which has become one of the more exclusive celebrity bashes of Super Bowl weekend. Models from the lads magazine will be competing for attention that night with those over at a party thrown by ESPN the Magazine, another at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino hosted by Kevin Dillon of "Entourage" fame, and a get-together featuring the unlikely duo of NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson and pop-music star Nick Lachey.

The annual "Leather and Laces" party is also Friday, hosted by Jenny McCarthy, Carmen Electra and Kim Kardashian. Promoters of all the parties are promising plenty of famous people and professional athletes.

Electra, who hosted a party with McCarthy at the Super Bowl last year in Phoenix, says it's a unique atmosphere, even for someone like her who doesn't care who wins the game or, for that matter, even who's playing.

"I think sports fans are very enthusiastic, so during the Super Bowl there's a lot of energy, a lot of people," says the model and sometime actress. "It makes for a much more fun, lively party. ...It's going to be sexy and fun, and it's always going to be crazy at the Super Bowl."

Some of the parties are so exclusive that regular folk don't have a chance of getting inside. Sports agent Leigh Steinberg, for instance, is staging his annual invitation-only gig at the Tampa city zoo. Other events are benefiting charities and selling tickets to the public for a few hundred dollars or more.

Some of the proceeds of Costner's party are going to several good causes via a foundation set up by Tampa Bay Buccaneers kicker Matt Bryant to honor his 3-month-old son, who died suddenly in September. Costner says the charity aspect was part of the attraction.

While between Hollywood projects, Costner is touring with his band, playing clubs and theaters in places like Omaha, Neb., Des Moines, Iowa, and Columbia, Mo. The roots rock/country outfit released its first CD last fall.

He hopes people will come because he's Kevin Costner and leave as new fans of Modern West.

"We're playing original music, so the difficulty in that is inherent with any performer playing songs that (people) can't tap their toe to because they've never heard it," he says. "I kind of like the challenge of everything that probably goes with being me, the curiosity factor and everything else, and doing songs that they've never heard and holding that audience."

Oh, and the game? Costner likes the Steelers.

AP

In this Nov. 11, 2008 file photo, Kevin Costner performs with his band Modern West at a free concert in Nashville, Tenn.

Madame Tussauds to unveil wax figure of first lady

WASHINGTON (AP)—Madame Tussauds wax museum is adding Michelle Obama to its collection of famous figures in Washington. Museum officials released pictures of the design process Wednesday and said the full figure will be unveiled in March. Designers will have spent six months on the figure, studying photos and video of the first lady.

General Manager Janine DiGioacchino says having an image of Obama is an honor because "as our nation's first African-American first lady, a proud working mom and budding style icon, Mrs. Obama is a role model to women around the corner and around the globe."

The figure was designed at Merlin Studios in London and will be placed alongside President Barack Obama's figure in a replica Oval Office.

AP

This image provided by Madame Tussauds shows senior sculptor Colin Jackson working on a clay head mold of first lady Michelle Obama at Merlin Studios in London. The clay molds are a crucial step in the up to six month-long figure creation process. The full wax figure of the new first lady is expected to be unveiled at Madame Tussauds in Washington in March.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$5.25 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$5.25 All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.25 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$5.25 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.25 Military with Valid I.D.

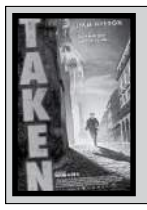
T TUESDAY BARGAIN $5.25 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

For Friday, January 30 through Tuesday, February 3 only!
THEATER CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★



Taken

Friday		4:30	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:15	
Mon and Tues		4:30	7:15	

Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace
Action, Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Former government operative Bryan Mills begins the longest 96-hours of his life--and the hunt for the fearsome organization that has taken his daughter Kim. Mills had only recently given up his government career as what he calls a "preventer" to be near Kim, who lives with Bryan's ex-wife Lenore and her new husband. To make ends meet, Bryan joins some former colleagues for special security details (like guarding a pop diva), but most of his time and energy are spent re-connecting with Kim.

★ ★ ★

Inkheart

Friday		4:05	7:25	9:45
Saturday	1:20	4:05	7:25	9:45
Sunday	1:20	4:05	7:25	
Mon and Tues		4:05	7:25	

Brendan Fraser, Helen Mirren
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis

Mortimer "Mo" Folchart and his 12-year-old daughter, Meggie, share a passion for books. What they also share is an extraordinary gift for bringing characters from books to life when they read aloud. But there is a danger: when a character is brought to life from a book, a real person disappears into its pages. On one of their trips to a secondhand book shop, Mo hears voices he hasn't heard for years, and when he locates the book they're coming from, it sends a shiver up his spine.

Paul Blart, Mall Cop

Friday		4:20	7:05	10:00
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	10:00
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tues		4:20	7:05	

Kevin James, Jayma Mays
Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

A single, suburban dad tries to make ends meet as a security officer at a New Jersey mall. It's a job he takes very seriously, though no one else does. When Santa's helpers at the mall stage a coup, shutting down the megaplex and taking hostages (Paul's daughter and sweetheart among them), Jersey's most formidable mall cop will have to become a real cop to save the day.

Underworld 3: Rise of the Lycans

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:10	
Mon and Tues		4:10	7:10	

Michael Sheen, Bill Nighy
Thriller, Romance • Rated R

Hotel For Dogs

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:35
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:35
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon and Tues		4:00	7:00	

Emma Roberts, Don Cheadle
Comedy, Children • Rated PG

Bride Wars

Friday		4:15	7:30	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon and Tues		4:15	7:30	

Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG

Unborn

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon and Tues		4:25	7:20	

Gary Oldman, Odette Yustman
Thriller, Supernatural • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Depressed son stonewalls parents desperate to help

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Our son, "Adam," is 24 and lives at home. He had some kind of mental breakdown at school—no one will tell us what he had—and he says he's too depressed to work or go back to school.

Adam stays in his room all day watching TV. He's on medication, but I don't think he's taking it regularly. His doctor refuses to talk to us because Adam won't give her permission to do so.

Abby, we don't know what to do. Should we let him stay in his room or make him go to work? How can we make him take his medicine? What if he kills himself? We love our son and want to help him, but we don't know how.

FRANTIC MOM IN PHILADELPHIA

DEAR FRANTIC MOM: Because you are involved in your son's care, common sense dictates that you be involved in his treatment planning, and you should insist upon it. Make clear that you are not interested in the details of his therapy, only in what the treatment plan is and what you can do to help. If necessary, inform his therapist that you will pay for therapy only if she gives you some basic information.

It is especially important that you know whether or not your son is actually ready to go to work, and that there is an emergency plan in place should he become suicidal. If the doctor understands the extent to which family involvement helps, she will find a way to explain it to your son so that permission will be given.

Clear boundaries should be set on what you will and will not be told. At that time, you, your son and his doctor will need to make a plan together so you are not put in the position of always having to remind him to take his meds.

If the doctor won't talk directly TO you, remember that she is still permitted to LISTEN to whatever information you want to give—so leave a voicemail. The therapist will share whatever you say with your son, but at least you will be on record with having given the information.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What are your thoughts on a mother of five children, four girls and a son, ages 10 through 18, who is naked when she awakens them for school each morning?

It bothers them, and I am beyond shocked. Surely common decency hasn't changed that much. Don't you think her behavior is bizarre and inappropriate?

STUNNED GRANDMOTHER IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR GRANDMOTHER: Not everyone feels as strongly as you do about nudity. However, because her relaxed attitude on the subject bothers your grandchildren to the point that they have complained to you, the mother's behavior is inappropriate. Considering the average temperature at this time of year in Pennsylvania, it could also be considered "bizarre."

Because these children are now old enough to get up for school on their own, why not give them each an alarm clock and suggest they start now?

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have three daughters, 2, 16 and 18. My 16-year-old, "Tracy," and I are having an ongoing disagreement. She feels it is my responsibility to make her lunch every day. I feel Tracy is old enough to do it herself, but she insists that all of her friends' mothers do this for their daughters. What do you think of this situation?

A.B. IN BELMONT, CALIF.

DEAR A.B.: Your daughter may be trying to "guilt" you into doing a chore that she would rather not do, or she may feel emotionally needy. Until recently, Tracy was the baby in your family. Now she is the middle child. It is possible that she feels displaced. You need to talk to her about accepting responsibility and that the willingness to do so is a sign of growth and maturity.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

'Thriller' director sues Michael Jackson

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—"Thriller" may be headed to Broadway, but first Michael Jackson's song and groundbreaking music video may be headed to court.

John Landis, the acclaimed director who co-wrote the video and shot "Thriller," is suing Jackson, claiming the pop star has failed to pay him royalties for the project for the past four years.

Landis' Levitsky Productions Inc. sued Jackson for unspecified damages in Santa Monica on Jan. 21, days before a Broadway producer announced he had bought the rights to adapt "Thriller" for the stage.

The lawsuit claims Landis is owed 50 percent of profits from "Thriller" projects and alleges Jackson continues to license rights to video games, toys and comic books based on the 14-minute music video and a documentary.

A phone message left for a New York attorney who has represented Jackson was not immediately returned Wednesday morning.

In this May 27, 2006 file photo, American singer Michael Jackson arrives at the Japan MTV "Legend Award" in Tokyo.

AP

Philadelphia Soul ex-manager sues Bon Jovi, others

AP

In this July 31, 2008 file photo, former Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Ron Jaworski, left, and musician Jon Bon Jovi, part of the team ownership of the Philadelphia Soul, hold up the Arena Football League Championship trophy during a public celebration of the team's victory in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The former sales manager for the Philadelphia Soul arena football team is suing club owner Jon Bon Jovi and his partners for nearly $125,000 he says he's owed.

Joseph Krause of Jenkintown alleges that rock singer Bon Jovi and other team officials told employees they would receive two weeks of severance pay. The Arena Football League is canceling the 2009 season as it creates a better business model for tough economic times.

Krause says he is owed commissions of more than $83,000 for the 2008 season and more than $41,000 for the canceled 2009 season.

Interim general manager Paul Korzilius, when reached by KYW-AM, declined to comment because of the pending lawsuit.

Bon Jovi and the others named in the suit didn't respond to requests for comment.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Rowland splits from Beyonce's manager dad

NEW YORK (AP)—Kelly Rowland says she will always be a part of Beyonce's family, but she no longer will be managed by the superstar's father. Rowland and Matthew Knowles announced Wednesday that he is bowing out as her manager. He's guided her career since she was kid, when he put her in Destiny's Child along with Beyonce. He even helped raise her. Both Rowland and Knowles—who still manages daughter Beyonce—called the split amicable. Both say they will always be family. Rowland has sold millions of records as part of Destiny's Child, but her solo career hasn't matched that success. Rowland—who turns 27 next month—did not say who her new manager will be.

Mickey Rourke won't rumble with WWE superstar

HOUSTON (AP)—A spokeswoman for actor Mickey Rourke says he won't be taking his role as a professional wrestler into a real-life ring after all. Paula Woods told The Associated Press on Wednesday night that Rourke will not wrestle WWE superstar Chris Jericho at Wrestlemania 25 in April at Houston's Reliant Stadium. Woods wrote in an e-mail that the Oscar-nominated actor "will not be participating in Wrestlemania. He is focusing entirely on his acting career." Rourke portrays professional wrestler Randy the Ram in the acclaimed movie "The Wrestler." He made a surprise announcement about the wrestling event Sunday night on the red carpet before the Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles. Rourke had said he was going to toss Jericho "around the ring like tossed salad."

And the ballots go to... 5,810 Oscar voters

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The ballots are in the mail for the 5,810 members of Hollywood's elite who get to vote on the Academy Awards.

Wednesday's final ballots include nominees in 19 categories, among them best picture, director and the four acting prizes.

Ballots in five other categories—feature-length and short documentaries, foreign-language film, animated shorts and live-action shorts—are available only after academy members verify that they attended screenings of the nominees.

The deadline is Feb. 17 for Oscar voters to return ballots to the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. The big show itself comes five days later.

Timberlake discusses his 'SNL' jokes

NEW YORK (AP)—One visit to Beyonce's dressing room was all it took for Justin Timberlake to ease her concerns about a "Saturday Night Live" skit featuring the two of them.

When Beyonce told him she was having second thoughts about a sketch where Timberlake was to "audition" for a video, he showed up at her dressing room in a robe covering a leotard. He dropped the robe and stood there, staring into space.

Beyonce's reply: "I can't look anywhere but your face right now," Timberlake told CBS' Katie Couric in an interview for next week's pre-Grammy special.

Timberlake also said another, more infamous "SNL" skit where he offered a piece of his anatomy as a gift got a thumbs up from his mom. She thought it was funny.

"You gotta meet my mom," he said. "She's a pretty edgy chick!"

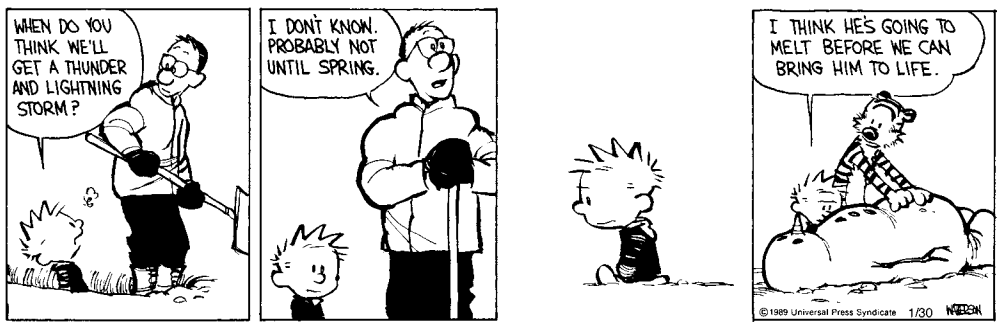
AP

Singer Justin Timberlake makes an appearance on MTV's TRL "Total Finale Live" show at the MTV studios in Times Square in New York on Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHEN DO YOU THINK WE'LL GET A THUNDER AND LIGHTNING STORM?
I DON'T KNOW. PROBABLY NOT UNTIL SPRING.
I THINK HE'S GOING TO MELT BEFORE WE CAN BRING HIM TO LIFE.
©1989 Universal Press Syndicate 1/30

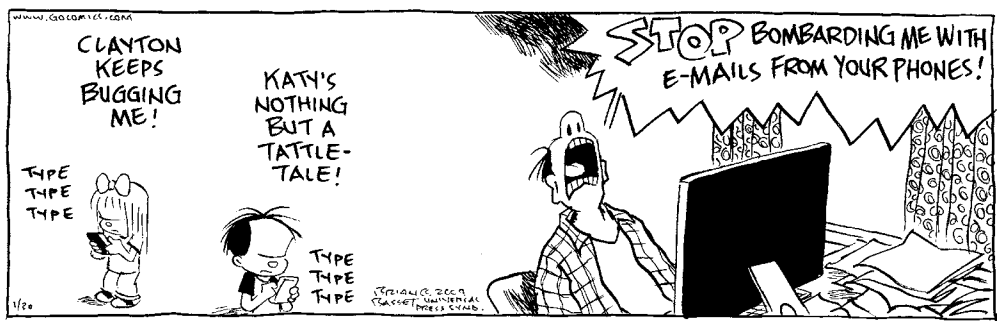
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
TELL ME, DOCTOR, IS THERE A CURE FOR DOGS?
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 1-30

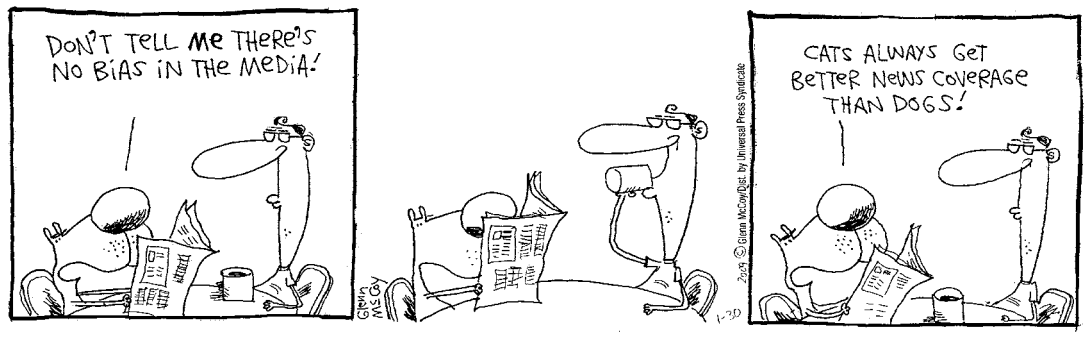
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

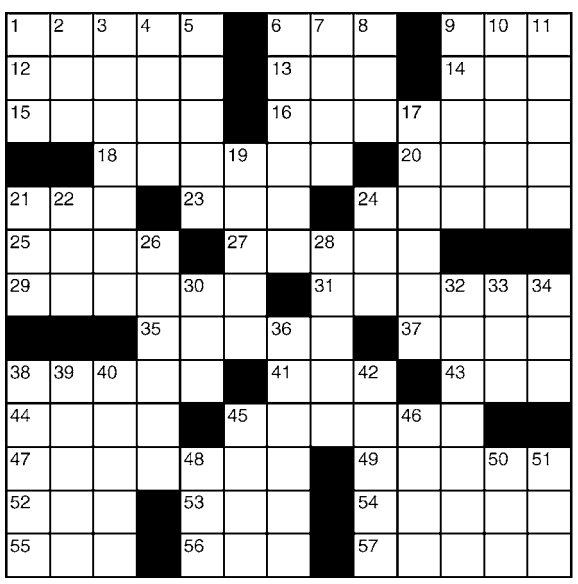
ACROSS
1 Ballroom offering
6 Peculiar
9 Bando of baseball lore
12 Hardly a brainiac
13 Sheepish remark
14 Expert
15 Having melody and harmony
16 Mad. Ave. music
18 Report card data
20 Ceremony
21 Hooter
23 Uncorrected
24 Western
25 Weeding tools
27 Cram, perhaps
29 Tile art
31 Actor Liam
35 Perch
37 Pebbles' pet
38 Inert gas
41 Second sequel notation
43 Different
44 Subsequently
45 Have membership
47 Parasthetic feelings
49 Cardiff's land
52 Singer DiFranco
53 Nevertheless
54 Vertical
55 Hatchery supply
56 Mound stat
57 Spiteful

DOWN
1 Pose for a picture
2 Commotion
3 Rubs elbows
4 Piglet's papa
5 Rand's shrugger
6 Thing
7 Lectern location
8 Author Brown
9 Alley oops?
10 Mountain ridge
11 Runner-up
17 Showed signs of aging
19 "Saturday Night Fever" venue
21 Resistance measure
22 "Face/Off" director John
24 Praise in verse
26 Muumuu alternative
28 Up to the time that
30 Charged bit
32 Tennis match, often
33 Inseparable
34 Promptly
36 Nap
38 Oil of roses
39 African beast
40 Spirit in a bottle
42 Hawkeye
45 Batter ingredient, at times
46 California wine valley
48 Caustic solution
50 Have a bite
51 Firmament

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	R	M	S	■	G	A	T	■	O	A	H	U
S	H	A	H	■	O	V	A	■	P	R	I	G
P	E	R	I	■	T	E	L	■	I	T	L	L
S	A	L	L	O	W	■	C	R	A	W	L	Y
■	■	■	O	N	O	■	I	T	O	■	■	■
O	U	C	H	■	R	E	N	D	E	R	E	D
U	S	A	■	■	S	E	E	■	■	K	E	A
R	E	T	I	C	E	N	T	■	A	S	K	S
■	■	■	W	O	O	■	■	W	O	W	■	■
A	T	O	D	D	S	■	O	R	N	E	R	Y
S	E	M	I	■	A	P	R	■	I	L	I	A
I	R	A	N	■	R	A	T	■	N	U	L	L
S	I	N	E	■	A	S	H	■	G	L	E	E

Yesterday's answer 1-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Khleo Thomas, 20; Wilmer Valderrama, 29; Christian Bale, 35; Phil Collins, 58

Happy Birthday: Everything you do will be dependent on keeping things in perspective and not going overboard. Too much of anything will bog you down and set you back. It's a fine balance to maintain this year but, the outcome will be beneficial. Your numbers are 10, 16, 22, 27, 30, 34, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Tempers will mount if you let your emotions or jealousy get the better of you. Staying busy helping others will keep you from overreacting. Project the positive and walk away from arguments and stalemates. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You can get a lot done if you focus on what is possible instead of dwelling on what isn't. A business opportunity may lead to a change of location or residence. Keep any celebrating to a minimum. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Your heart is in the right place and your ability to put others at ease will help you get your point across. However, be careful not to let loved ones dump responsibilities in your lap. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let jealousy lead you down the wrong path when there is so much to gain being affectionate. Take a serious but playful approach to your relationships. Talks at work could lead to a partnership or alliance. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Look for any opportunity to travel, develop your ideas or have a coalition with like-minded people. Someone you meet will contribute so much more than you were expecting, making your life easier and allowing you to do what you do best. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): It's your prerogative to change your mind, so don't let anyone put you down for doing so. Situations and circumstances change and, if you aren't adaptable, you are likely to lose. Love is on the rise and an interesting turn of events is about to happen. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't set yourself up for a big disappointment. If you voice your opinion, you could face devastating opposition. Don't let someone you live with discourage you. An opportunity is heading your way if you are patient. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Get out and about where you can touch base with creative minds and try new and interesting activities that will inspire you. Love is hot and, sudden and unexpected changes in your personal life are likely to take place. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can get into a whole lot of trouble with relationships if you are flirtatious or cannot make up your mind. Avoid any sort of interaction that may lead someone on. Upfront action will spare you grief. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You have to make a decision if you want to stay in sync. There is too much to lose and everything to gain by stepping up and doing whatever you feel in your heart will lead to a happier lifestyle for you. Money matters can be sorted out. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Let someone else take care of matters that are getting you down or causing you to make poor choices. You have to take a break to reevaluate and sort through your own emotional problems. Stop trying to do so much for others. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Get involved in a charity or group that you believe in and you will meet someone who can help you out, as well. There is an opportunity developing and, if handled properly, it can lead to great security in your personal life. Listen to the advice being offered. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive and passionate. You are dominant, persuasive and unwilling to give in when you believe you are right. You are possessive, caring and curious.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6		7		5		
				4				
7			9		1			8
		2				4		
8	1						2	9
		9				7		
9			7		6			1
				5				
		4		8		6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	4	3	6	1	8	7	2	5
1	6	5	7	2	9	4	8	3
2	8	7	3	4	5	6	9	1
4	2	9	1	8	7	3	5	6
3	1	8	4	5	6	2	7	9
7	5	6	9	3	2	1	4	8
6	9	4	5	7	1	8	3	2
5	7	2	8	6	3	9	1	4
8	3	1	2	9	4	5	6	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/29

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FINGERPRINT ENCRIPTION **Solution: 7 letters**

E	R	S	E	G	K	I	F	O	L	D	E	R	S	G
R	P	E	Y	R	N	C	D	U	S	E	R	I	U	A
O	M	U	T	S	A	I	O	Ⓓ	Ⓐ	Ⓣ	Ⓐ	L	M	C
T	G	A	T	U	T	W	D	T	C	A	P	M	O	C
S	E	A	T	E	P	E	T	A	S	C	S	I	D	O
S	L	C	K	C	S	M	M	F	R	I	I	E	E	U
L	O	O	H	C	H	T	O	S	O	T	G	T	L	N
I	G	N	S	N	O	I	T	C	A	S	N	A	R	T
D	I	T	I	E	O	L	N	C	D	I	A	V	E	E
E	N	R	Z	M	C	L	C	G	M	H	T	I	D	M
C	S	O	E	C	I	U	O	A	I	P	U	T	A	P
I	W	L	I	G	R	K	R	G	T	O	R	C	E	L
F	I	T	H	A	A	K	S	I	Y	S	E	A	R	A
F	P	T	C	L	O	S	E	A	T	T	A	C	H	T
O	E	Y	C	A	V	I	R	P	L	Y	R	A	T	E

© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 1/30

Account, Accuracy, Activate, Admit, Attach, Close, Compact, Computer, Control, Data, Folders, Install, Light, Lock, Login, Mark, Matching, Model, Office, Optic, Plug, Privacy, Rate, Reader, Security, Setup, Signature, Size, Skim, Slide, Software, Sophisticated, Stock, Store, Swipe, Systems, Technology, Template, Trading, Transaction, User

Yesterday's Answer: Navigable

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 (ish for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. **Order online at upuzzles.com.**

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

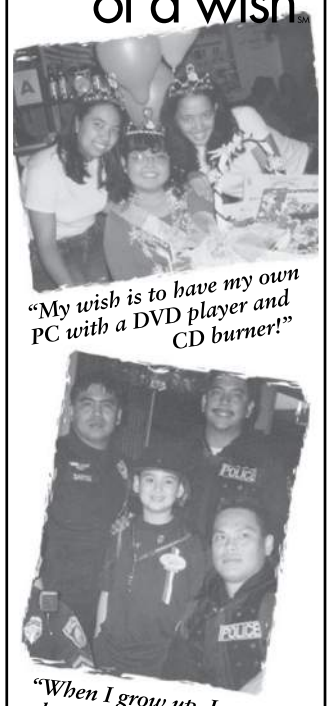
CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

share the power of a wish



"My wish is to have my own PC with a DVD player and CD burner!"

"When I grow up, I want to become a police officer!"

15 years of making wishes come true!

For eligible children with life-threatening illnesses

MAKE-A-WISH

Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104
Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH
Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

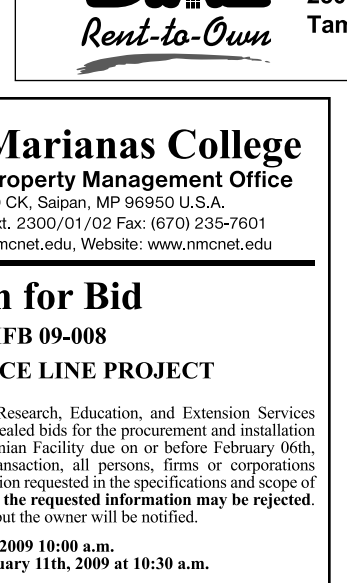
DRUNK DRIVING
Over the limit. Under arrest.

EMPLOYMENT

Sablan Enterprises, Inc. is looking for a MASON. Interested applicant may apply at 2nd Floor, VSS Plaza, Chalan Piao, Saipan, MP 96950

Seeking experienced autobody repairer. Must be experienced with rust repairs, some paint experienced preferred. Contact 287-7785

Computer Repair
Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM



FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, 24-hr pwr./water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. MIHA applicants accepted. Right behind NMC campus. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

New Full Concrete House for Rent, Ahgaga Rd., Papago. $550. 2BR, 2BTH, kitchen, din, liv rm. 3 car paved parking, ref, oven, water tank, oceanview, pvd. prking, safe&quiet. 256-0132 or 483-1933.

WHATZIT Solution:
Shopping around the bargains

FOR SALE-COMMERCIAL

Laundrymat & Mini Market. Clean laundrymat & mini market in San Antonio. Price negotiable. Contact 483-3062 (English) 483-6227 (Korean)

AUTOMOTIVE

2004 Nissan Murano AWD 4 SALE. Beautiful Pearl white. Fully loaded. 6-CD BOSE Stereo w/8 speakers. Call 285-1317. 13K OBO. KBB Value is $15,635.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

G
N BARGAIN S
BARGAIN
I BARGAIN H
BARGAIN
P P O

© 2009 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

Manager Trainee

If you are a leader with a management background, we would like to meet you.

Minimum Qualifications:
- ➢ 2 years experience in managing 10 or more employees
- ➢ Must be computer proficient
- ➢ High school diploma
- ➢ Drivers license/transportation
- ➢ Excellent spoken and written English communication skills
- ➢ Problem solving skills
- ➢ Ability to meet weekly deadlines

Starting salary negotiable based on experience, and work history. Benefits include100% medical & dental, paid vacations, paid sick time, paid holidays, and more!

No calls please. Send resume' and salary history to: drtojoanne@teleguam.net

DIAL Rent-to-Own

250 Guerrero Dr. Suite 101
Tamuning, GU 96910

YCO CORPORATION
is looking for the following positions:

COOK & BAKER

Cook must have experience in Local, Japanese, Mexican and American cuisine.

Applicant may submit their resume at 3rd floor Yumul Bldg. Garapan, Saipan (Strictly no phone call)

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu, Website: www.nmcnet.edu

Invitation for Bid

NMC No.: IFB 09-008

CREES TINIAN FENCE LINE PROJECT

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Services Department (CREES) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and installation of Chain Link Fence and Gates for CREES Tinian Facility due on or before February 06th, 2009. In order to be considered for this transaction, all persons, firms or corporations responding to this request must provide information requested in the specifications and scope of work. **Any bid received that does not provide the requested information may be rejected**. Bids rejected will not be returned to the owner, but the owner will be notified.

DUE DATE/TIME: Friday, February 06th, 2009 10:00 a.m.
PUBLIC BID OPENING: Wednesday, February 11th, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.

Specifications and Scope of Work may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Bid Packages are due February 06th, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with NMC Procurement Regulations. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, **"Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement. This procurement is funded, wholly, from federal sources. For bidders located outside of the CNMI**: You may request a copy of the Invitation for Bid via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita C. Camacho (acamacho@nmcnet.edu)

All bidders are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College and CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by the following:

Anita C. Camacho
NMC, Procurement Manager

Ross S. Manglona
Director, NMC CREES

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
JVA# 09-011

OPENING DATE: **January 23, 2009** CLOSING DATE: **UNTIL FILLED**

The NMI Retirement Fund is seeking professionals to work in a busy and challenging office. Salary and benefits are commensurate with the responsibilities assigned to the successful candidates and in compliance with CNMI laws. The following positions are available:

	Starting Salary Range
Executive Secretary	$21,506.41 – $36,763.20 (Pay Level 29)
Internal Auditors (2)	$24,889.35 – $42,558.00 (Pay Level 32)

Interested individuals may pick up an application and the complete Position Description from the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or may request a packet by e-mail from the Administrator. Application packages may be hand-delivered or sent by e-mail or postal mail. Packages must be marked **"JVA# 09-011 Confidential."** Interested applicants must submit their **application, resume, educational credentials and police clearance** addressed to the following:

Mark Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedroom, 1 bathroom house centrally located in Garapan, equipped with a water tank, air conditioners in every room, nice, safe, and friendly neighborhood. NMHC applicants welcome. Please call 483-3848 for more information.

SHAKIR'S REALTY & INSURANCE
1ST FLOOR, SUITE 103 SHAKIR BLDG II, BEACH RD., CHALAN KANOA, SAIPAN.
TEL. 234-5152 • 287-2254
(WE BUY, SELL, LEASE, RENT PROPERTIES)

RENTALS

3br, 2bth house, Capital Hill… **$900**/mo.
4br, 2bth house, Tototville…. **$950**/mo.
4br, 3bth house, Gualo Rai…. **$900**/mo.
3br, 2bth house, Garapan….. **$950**/mo.

APARTMENTS

2br, 1bth furnished, Beach Rd. CK w/ WiFi . **$400**/mo.
Spacious studio furnished, Gualo Rai w/ WiFi . **$300**/mo.
2br, 1bth furnished, CK……. **$350**/mo.
2br, 1bth furnished, Dandan… **$350**/mo.
1br, 1bth furnished, Susupe… **$275**/mo.
2br, 1bth w/ swimming pool… **$750**/mo.
Back-up generator

SALE & LEASE

4br, 2bth house, Dandan, oceanview……. **$210K**
5br, 4bth house, Dandan, oceanview……. **$250K**
4br, 3bth house, Dandan, newly renovated .. **$140K**
4br, 2bth house + 2unit 2br apt. As Terlaje .. **$160K**
3br, 1bth house, Gualo Rai, oceanview…… **$110K**
Executive 5br, 3bth house, w/ swimming pool, Papago. Must see to appreciate…… **$320K**
5br, 3bth house, Kobler with fence…… **$165K**

LAND

We have beach & oceanview properties available

CALL OR VISIT US FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS.

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. is a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation, the world's leading petroleum and petrochemical company. Exxon Mobil Corporation and subsidiary companies (collectively "ExxonMobil") have operations throughout the world. This is your opportunity to join this dynamic company and become part of the team that thrives in a fast-paced and controls-oriented environment.

Mobil is seeking to appoint an experienced and qualified individual to fill the position of Bulk Plant Superintendent in Tinian as follows:

Bulk Plant Superintendent – Tinian

As part of the Customer Service function, this role will manage and execute operational activities related to the distribution, handling and storage of products marketed by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. in Tinian within the guidance of the corporate safety, health and environmental policies/procedures and government regulatory requirements.

You will be responsible for conducting business transactions within the framework of company "Standards of Business Conduct" and government statutory compliance requirements. Compliance with regulatory and corporate "Safety, Health and Environment" policies and guidelines is an important requirement for this role.

As the Bulk Plant Superintendent, you will be initiating and implementing process efficiencies which will improve operational economies and contribute positively towards financial results.

Skills and Experience required include:

- Supervisory skills and effective interpersonal skills to work with a diverse operating workforce, consultants, contractors, regulators and customers
- Relevant BS degrees from an accredited university
- Successful work experience with inland and marine operations, storage, handling and distribution standards
- Experience in petroleum, oil, and distribution project works is highly desirable but not essential.

This position will be based at the Tinian Bulk Plant in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Remuneration will be commensurate with the successful applicant's relevant skills and experience.

****

If you believe you have the qualities required for this position, please e-mail your resume to **katrina.terlaje@exxonmobil.com or fax to (671) 648-3786 by Wednesday, February 4, 2009.**

Federal law requires that we verify the identity and work eligibility of all new hires.
We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Equal Opportunity Employer

M◎bil
We're drivers too.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
235- NEWS

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 664-2371 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-GOV-037

Roof Repair of Department of Finance Buildings
(Office of the Secretary of Finance, Finance & Accounting and Treasury Buildings)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, are soliciting sealed bids for the Roof Repair of three (3) Department of Finance Buildings, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

1. Office of the Secretary of Finance Building
2. Treasury Building
3. Finance and Accounting Building

The project package will be available on January 21, 2009 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill. A $70.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Prefference Act, as ammended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by the CNMI and Federal laws.

There will be a mandatory Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on February 02, 2009, 9:00 a.m., local time, at the Secretary of Finance Building Parking Lot, Capitol Hill. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on February 02, 2009 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB09-GOV-037"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, February 06, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 4:00 p.m. local time February 06, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 06, 2009 and must be received no later than February 17, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, February 19, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on February 10, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is Sixty **(60)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars **($100.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Secretary of Finance
Department of Finance

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

WORLD RESORT
SAIPAN

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: January 1, 2009 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled

Saipan World Resort is seeking for a professional Training Assistant Manager to work in a busy hotel industry. Salary and benefits are commensurate with the responsibilities to the successful candidate and in compliance to the CNMI laws.

POSITION TITLE: Training Assistant Manager
SALARY: $2,000.00/Month

NATURE OF WORK:

This position is located within the Department of Human Resources, Saipan World Resort. The incumbent is charged with the responsibility of conducting appropriate assigned workshops and trainings to increase worker's effectiveness on the job, improve morale, and prepare new employees to do jobs for which they are not trained. The incumbent is also charged with the responsibility to research, develop and to put together findings into some type of meaningful and effective training package. The incumbent is supervised by the Manager of Human Resources.

MINIMUM QUALIFCATIONS:

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a BA degree in education, plus five (5) years of actual training experience in hotel industry, of which two (2) years must be teaching/training in resort hotel business.

Interested individuals may pick up an application from the Security Office, Saipan World Resort. Interested applicants must submit their application, resume, educational credentials, police clearance addressed to the following:

Miriam K. Seman, Manager
Human Resources Department
Saipan World Resort
P.O. Box 500066 Saipan, MP 96950

Serena, Safina into Australian Open final

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Serena Williams finally hit form to oust Olympic champion Elena Dementieva and move into her fourth Australian Open final.

Now one more Russian, Dinara Safina, stands between Williams and a 10th Grand Slam title.

Williams, who won the Australian title in 2003, 2005 and 2007, played her best match of the tournament in a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Dementieva on Thursday.

"I haven't moved like that for a while, so I was a little shocked," said Williams, still leaving room for improvement. "A perfect match for me? Oh, no, no, no. But it was definitely better."

She'll get her chance to extend the alternate-year sequence of titles when she meets No. 3-ranked Safina, who beat fellow Russian Vera Zvonareva 6-3, 7-6 (4) in the other semifinal.

The winner of Saturday night's final will also earn the No. 1 ranking.

Safina's older brother, Marat Safin, won the title here in 2005, the day after Williams had beaten then No. 1 Lindsay Davenport in the women's final.

Safina is yet to win a major, losing the 2008 French Open final to Ana Ivanovic in her best previous run. She lost to Williams in last year's U.S. Open semifinals.

The roof was closed at Rod Laver Arena for both women's semifinals, protecting the players and fans from outside temperatures topping 111 degrees.

Williams commended tournament organizers for deciding early to close the roof rather than wait, as they had Wednesday, until halfway through her quarterfinal against Svetlana Kuznetsova.

AP

Serena Williams of the United States returns to Russia's Elena Dementieva during their Women's singles semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009.

"It was really, really hot today," she said, "and, uhm, it was really hot."

News updates during the semifinals reported it was the hottest January day since 1939 in Melbourne. The temperature hit 112 at 4:43 p.m.

It was almost as hot Wednesday when Williams was only a game from a quarterfinal exit, having to break Kuznetsova when the Russian was serving for the match.

Twice before, Williams has had to save match points in her semifinal en route to the Australian title.

But the reigning U.S. Open champion found her rhythm quickly against Dementieva, who has not gone past the semifinals at a Grand Slam since 2004.

"I just really wasn't playing well at all. I just wasn't bringing it," she said of her first five matches here. "I thought that I was just going to have to do whatever it takes to win.

"This is definitely not over. I have to play a really tough opponent who wants to win ... it (could) be their first Grand Slam. That's super exciting."

Williams ended Dementieva's best bid in four years for a major.

The Russian was on a 15-match winning streak, including two titles and wins over Williams and Safina at the Sydney International.

"I had a good run ...(but) I feel like today I was not quick enough," Dementieva said. "I was not maybe aggressive enough against her. She dictated points.

"But I have no regrets. I had just a great time here."

While it was cooler inside than out at Melbourne Park, Williams already had soaked through her blue dress by the time the second game was over, not surprising since they had played 16 minutes.

When Williams blasted a clean cross-court winner while serving at 3-3, she gave Dementieva a long glare. Dementieva smacked a service return winner on the next point and glared right back.

Dementieva held to start the second set in a game that went to deuce five times and lasted 14 minutes, then broke Williams en route to a 3-0 lead.

That sparked a four-game run for Williams until Dementieva broke to even the second set at 4-4.

Then nerves seemed to get the best of Dementieva. Having problems with her service toss, she double-faulted twice, the second setting up break point. Williams ripped a backhand winner down the line and pumped her fist.

Williams has had problems with her first serve throughout the tournament, but it came through when she needed it most.

Serving for the match at 5-4, she started with an ace and hit another serve that Dementieva sent long.

At 30-15, Williams followed with another ace. Dementieva squealed and bent over in frustration. Another powerful serve on match point set up an easy overhead and it was over in 98 minutes.

Roger Federer, seeking a record-equaling 14th Grand Slam singles title to match Pete Sampras' career record, was playing American Andy Roddick in the night semifinal.

No. 2 Federer, who is 15-2 against the seventh-seeded Roddick, who beat defending champion Novak Djokovic in the quarterfinals.

Top-ranked Rafael Nadal set up an all-Spanish final against Fernando Verdasco when he beat No. 6 Gilles Simon 6-2, 7-5, 7-5 on Wednesday night.

Verdasco ousted 2008 runner-up Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Steelers' Santonio Holmes says he sold drugs as youth

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Steelers wide receiver Santonio Holmes' childhood was much like that of any other youngster in rural south Florida. He played backyard football. Chased squirrels. Ran around with his friends.

This was different: Despite being a promising athlete, Holmes also spent a year selling drugs on a street corner in his small hometown.

He chose to make his surprising admission at the Super Bowl, knowing millions of impressionable youngsters will be closely following the game and its players. By revealing his secret, Holmes hopes he may persuade other at-risk youth to choose a path that leads to the athletic field and a classroom, not to a detention center or a jail cell.

"I've only told three or four people about it," Holmes said Wednesday. "I feel it's time to share things. I'm on the biggest stage, everybody's going to be watching. I'm pretty sure some kids can get a feel for changing their lives and not doing those type of things, and can get an opportunity to get out of the ghetto, the 'hood, to be successful."

Holmes, who initially made the admission in an interview with the Miami Herald, became exposed to the lifestyle while growing up in Belle Glade, Fla. Some family members and friends made money selling drugs, he said, and he found it an easy way to make money, too, though he didn't specify exactly what he sold.

Holmes avoided detection by his mother by going to school, then leaving and going to the street corner. He and his family didn't need the money for food or essentials, and he used it mostly on gifts for himself, like shoes.

"My friends were always doing it and I felt comfortable doing it at the time," Holmes said. "As the years grew older, I just felt like that wasn't what I wanted to do. I wanted to play football. I don't want to end up like a lot of my friends, in jail, standing on the corner, not going to school."

Several pivotal events turned Holmes away from selling and pushed him to football, where he starred as Glades Central High won Florida state titles during his sophomore and junior seasons and went 12-1 during his senior season.

Holmes and his mother became worried as they repeatedly returned home to find bullet holes or broken locks in their apartment. Another time, Holmes' mother found cocaine in the youngster's dump truck. That seemed to be what prompted her to relocate to another area.

The move, Holmes said, was pivotal in turning his life around.

"It made me who I am today. If I had continued down that path, I wouldn't be here," he said.

"At times, going back home during the offseason or my free time, that's the main time I think about it. But I saw how much of a struggle I had to go through, my mother had to go through and I don't want to wish that on anybody," Holmes said.

After high school ball, he starred at Ohio State for three seasons before being the Steelers' first-round draft pick in 2006. Holmes has been one of their key offensive players this season, making 55 catches for 821 yards and five touchdowns. He has two touchdowns in two postseason games.

On Super Bowl media day, Holmes told a different story about his childhood.

"Belle Glade, it's probably one of the smallest towns here in Florida, and we didn't have much to do there. There's a high school, a couple of elementary schools and a middle school," he said. "We chase rabbits for a living. We did it for fun, but for the majority of the people we know, we did it for survival. I can remember it clearly that up until my sophomore year of high school, that's what I did. Every Saturday and every Sunday after church, that's what we would do: We would go rabbit hunting."

Earlier this season, Holmes was benched for an important game against the Giants for being involved in a drug-related case. He was charged with possession of a small amount of marijuana after police found marijuana-filled cigars in his car after a traffic stop.

Holmes said that incident doesn't signal a return to his past.

"It happens, being in the wrong place at the wrong time, not being responsible, being around people that aren't responsible enough to respect what I do," Holmes said. "I knew what my path was like before, and I didn't want to go down that path again."

Fitzgerald says he'd pitch in to keep Boldin

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Larry Fitzgerald would look at restructuring his contract if it would help keep fellow Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Anquan Boldin on the team.

"Someone asked me a question if I would be willing to do something to help the team, and I said, `No problem,' " Fitzgerald said Wednesday. "This opportunity right here to be playing deep in the postseason, this is an amazing feeling. I'll do whatever it takes to get back to this point going forward in my career."

The question came up as the Cardinals prepared for Sunday's Super Bowl matchup with Pittsburgh.

Fitzgerald and Boldin form arguably the best receiving tandem in the NFL. Fitzgerald caught 96 passes for 1,431 yards and 12 touchdowns in the regular season. Boldin, despite missing four games with injuries, caught 89 passes for 1,038 yards and 11 scores. Both players made the Pro Bowl.

Boldin said he appreciated Fitzgerald's offer.

"Fitz and I have been together for five years, and we've been through a lot together," Boldin said. "I think the relationship that we have, neither of us want to see broken up. There's mutual respect, not only as receivers but as friends, and we realize that we make each other's jobs easier."

Boldin said in training camp that he would never re-sign with Arizona and would like to be traded because he feels management lied to him by not following through on a promise for a new contract. His latest comments indicate his position had softened.

Fitzgerald signed a four-year, $40 million contract after the 2007 season, with $30 million guaranteed.

Boldin has two years left on the four-year, $22.75 million contract he signed after the 2005 season. The deal paid him about $4 million this season.

General manager Rod Graves said he hoped to reopen contract talks with Boldin's agent, Drew Rosenhaus, after the title game.

Brown steps up as Hornets beat Nuggets

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Reserve Devin Brown stepped up when he was needed by New Orleans on Wednesday, hitting a season-high 18 points to help the Hornets to a 94-81 win over the Denver Nuggets in NBA action.

Brown got additional court time after a first-half injury and made it count with 6-of-7 shooting, lifting New Orleans to within a game of Southwest Division leader San Antonio.

Peja Stojakovic matched a season high with 26 points for the Hornets.

Chris Paul had only 12 points but 10 assists in an off night for the Nuggets.

76ers 95, Rockets 93

In Houston, Andre Iguodala hit a baseline jump shot with 36 seconds left to seal Philadelphia's comeback from a late 14-point deficit to beat Houston.

Iguodala finished with 20 points for the 76ers.

Celtics 119, Kings 100

In Boston, Eddie House scored 28 points on a career-high eight 3-pointers as Boston beat Sacramento and won its ninth in a row.

Rajon Rondo had 24 points and nine assists for the Celtics, who went on a 25-9 run to start the second quarter, turning a two-point deficit into a 14-point lead.

It was the seventh straight loss for Sacramento, which opened a 10-point lead in the first quarter.

TrailBlazers 88, Bobcats 74

In Portland, Oregon, LaMarcus Aldridge led Portland with 25 points and nine rebounds as Portland downed Charlotte.

Brandon Roy added 17 points for the Blazers, and Greg Oden had 14 points and 14 rebounds.

Knicks 112, Hawks 104

In New York, Nate Robinson scored 20 of his 24 points in the final 10 minutes, guiding New York over Atlanta.

Robinson had a personal 8-0 run to put New York up 96-85 with just over six minutes left.

Pistons 98, Timberwolves 89

In Minneapolis, Rasheed Wallace tied a season high with 25 points and had 10 rebounds, lifting Detroit over Minnesota.

Allen Iverson added 19 points for Detroit.

Mavericks 117, Warriors 93

In Dallas, the home team responded to its 24-point loss to Boston on Sunday by overwhelming Golden State.

Jason Terry scored 22 points, Dirk Nowitzki had 20, and Josh Howard added 19 for Dallas.

Pacers 107, Bucks 99

In Indianapolis, T.J. Ford matched his career high with 34 points as Indiana held off Milwaukee.

Jarrett Jack added 14 points for the Pacers in a meeting of the Central Division rivals.

Raptors 107, Nets 106

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Toronto edged New Jersey, notching a third straight win for the first time since the start of the season.

Jose Calderon had 17 points and 11 assists for the Raptors.

Devin Harris had a chance to steal the game for the Nets, but his step-back jump shot from the right edge of the foul line hit off the rim at the buzzer.

Heat 93, Wizards 71

In Miami, Dwyane Wade had 14 points, nine rebounds and nine assists before sitting out the entire fourth quarter as Miami cruised past Washington.

The Heat have won three straight, all over Southeast Division rivals.

Washington is an NBA-worst 9-36.

Bulls 95, Clippers 75

In Los Angeles, Chicago snapped a five-game losing streak with a comfortable win over Los Angeles.

Luol Deng had 23 points and nine rebounds for the Bulls, while rookie Derrick Rose added 21 points and six assists.

Thunder 114, Grizzlies 102, OT

In Oklahoma City, the home team blew a 10-point lead late in regulation time but recovered to down Memphis in overtime.

Kevin Durant scored 35 points for the Thunder, and Jeff Green added 23 on a career-high five 3-pointers.

Memphis came close but could not arrest what is now an 11-game losing streak.

Manuel welcomes Manny to Mets

NEW YORK (AP)—With or without Manny Ramirez, manager Jerry Manuel thinks his New York Mets are good enough to win next season. He'd love to put Ramirez in the middle of that lineup, though. The free-agent slugger keeps coming up in conversation this winter as he waits and waits for an enticing offer. Mets executives have shown zero interest, but Manuel—just like the team's anguished fan base—has already thought about what Ramirez could do for a club coming off consecutive September collapses.

"It's rare that you get that type of talent. I mean, boom! Right in the middle of the lineup type of guy, and right-handed for us, that would be a big bonus," Manuel said Tuesday.

"Would you like to have that? Yeah. Would you like to add something else? Yeah. But hey, we have to deal with what we have, and what we have—we feel like we have enough tools to make it into the playoffs."

A .314 career hitter with 527 home runs and 1,725 RBIs, Ramirez led the Los Angeles Dodgers to the NL championship series last season after arriving from Boston in a July 31 trade. He batted .396 with 17 homers, 53 RBIs and a whopping .743 slugging percentage in 53 games with Los Angeles.

Still, agent Scott Boras has yet to find a new home for Ramirez, who turns 37 in May. The enigmatic left fielder had a rocky relationship with the Red Sox and his final days in Boston were bitter, with some saying he quit on his teammates.

That might be one reason Mets general manager Omar Minaya has focused elsewhere. New York has spent the offseason in pursuit of pitching, and chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon said recently that Minaya and the team's baseball operations staff are not interested in Ramirez.

"I don't have problems with the clubhouse," said Manuel, who helped out City Harvest at Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen on Tuesday. "If you bring in a guy like that who performs on the field, I think we can handle the rest of that stuff. It's easy to handle when you have that type of performance. I don't think that's an issue."

New York appears content to go into the season with a left-field platoon of youngster Daniel Murphy and veteran Fernando Tatis.

The Mets are still trying to fill out the rotation, however, and they're interested in bringing back free-agent Oliver Perez. Also a Boras client, the 27-year-old lefty could command a four-year contract after going 10-7 with a 4.22 ERA in 34 starts last season.

NEW ELECTRONICS!
26" LCD TV
$24.95 /week
NEW APPLIANCES!
Kenmore WASHER
Starting at $15.95 /week
Start the New Year!
KARAOKE SYSTEMS
Starting at $9.95 /week
GE WASHER
Starting at $12.95 /week
GE AIRCONDITION 12000 BTU
Starting at $15.95 /week
This is a rent to own transaction. You do not own the product until all rental payments are made or purchase is made. See store for HUGE selection!
DIAL Rent-to-Own
NO CREDIT CHECKS!
NO REPAIR BILLS!
NO LONG TERM OBLIGATIONS!
AGANA Marine Corps Dr. 477-RENT Reserved Parking in Rear
DEDEDO Calvo's Center 637-RENT Behind Johndel's Supermarket
SAIPAN Middle Road 234-RENT Next to Subway

SCS scores first win at home vs SDA

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Community School hosted Seventh Day Adventist yesterday and scored its first win at home with a 38-16 blowout over the visitors in the girls division of the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools Athletic Association.

Still reeling from a humiliating 8-40 defeat when it visited Grace Christian Academy in its first game of the season last Tuesday, SCS capitalized on its familiarity of the court this time to smother SDA.

Victoria Reyes scored more than half of the other team's total by firing in 18 points for SCS.

Xuan Jun Lu added eight, while Alina Yoon and Lydin Johnson had four each. Han Mil Oh and Briana Fajardo also chipped in two points each.

The only SCS player who did not score was Rena Son.

Jacinia Richards led SDA with 10 points, Danessa Taylor finished with four, and Erin Belle Mendiola had two.

SDA's Danessa Taylor is bothered by the defense put up by Saipan Community School's Rena Son, Han Mil Oh, and Lydin Johnson in their game yesterday in the girls division of the 2009 COPSSA basketball league.
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Completing the lineup this year for SDA are Dana Kim, Ruby Jin, and Shannon Taylor.

SCS will try to sustain its momentum when it hosts Mount Carmel School today starting at 3:30pm.

Another game in the girls division today will be between host GCA and SDA.

SCS was also playing SDA in the boys division later in the afternoon.

Both teams were seeking their first win of the year.

SCS lost its first game against host Saipan International School, 38-23, on Jan. 22.

SCS also dropped its second assignment to GCA, 38-23, on Tuesday Jan 27.

SCS' boys team is composed of Justin Poon, Eron Constante, Christian Tudela, James Ko, Christopher Lam, Mikey Johnson, and John Kim.

SDA lost to Calvary Christian Academy on Jan. 22 and absorbed a 2-55 defeat when it hosted Saipan International School on Jan. 27.

SDA's boys roster includes Aamir Shakir, Ammar Shakir, Jong Woo Kim, Jude Sablan, Joey Nish, Tyler Palacios, and Vincent Iba.

Other boys division games still in progress as of press time yesterday were GCA vs. CCA and MCS vs. SIS.

SCS 38 – Victoria Reyes 18, Xuan Jun Lu 8, Alina Yoon 4, Lydin Johnson 4, Han Mil Oh 2, Brianna Fajardo 2, Rena Son 0; **SDA 16 –** Jacinia Richards 10, Danessa Taylor 4, Erin Belle Mendiola 2, Dana Kim 0, Ruby Jin 0, Shannon Taylor 0.

Scoring by halves: 12-6, 38-16.

Custom Goodwill to hold golf tourney on Feb. 14

Custom Goodwill will be holding a double peoria golf tournament on Feb. 14 at the Marianas Country Club.

Tee-off time is 12pm. Cash prizes will be available for the Top 3 finishers. To purchase tickets or for more information, call J.J. Atalig at 483-0400 or Dave Cepeda at 664-4876. ***(PR)***

RGA January Ace this Sunday

Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its January Ace of the Month this Sunday, Feb. 1, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

RGA tournament director Jess Wabol said check-in time for the weekend golf bash 11am with tee time set an hour later at 12pm. Registration ends at 11:45am and slots will be available for a maximum of 16 players.

Tournament fee is $30 and green fee is another $30.

Score to beat is the net 65 scored by Cui Xian Lai in the qualifier held last Jan. 17 also at COP.

Wabol also encouraged current and past members to pay RGA's annual membership fee, which will remain at $25 because of the current economic crisis.

For more information about RGA's January Ace and the rest of its tournaments for 2009, contact president Jordan Kosam at 483-4506 or Wabol at 288-1129.

In related news, Wabol announced that the San Jose Church Golf Tournament will be held on March 14 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

The tournament will adopt a double Peoria format and will award $300 for first place, $200 for second place, and $150 for third. Consolation prizes also await players that finished from fourth to 10th places. ***(PR)***

KAGMAN

From Page 36

stepped on the gas pedal in the fourth, outscoring Southern, 20-12, to improve to a 3-1 record.

Kagman's lone loss in the league was at the hands of the MHS Dolphins, who are still unbeaten in two games.

Southern remains winless after three matches.

The Rays had only Vince Iglecias making more than a field goal in the first quarter, which ended with Kagman ahead by eight, 19-11.

Southern picked up the scoring in the second period and at the same time tightened up its defense holding Kagman to six points to take the lead at halftime, 27-25.

But the Rays failed to sustain their momentum in the second half losing their chances to enter the win column.

Jimmy Brel paced Kagman with 14 points, while Edwin Camacho and Jesus Iguel chipped in 12 apiece. Trevor Ogumoro nailed 11, making all his points in the second half.

Josh Kiyoshi led Southern's losing cause firing 18 points, while Iglecias was the only other Ray to score in double figures with 11 markers.

In the women's division, Mercedes Mesa and Agatha Repeki combined for 38 points to lift the Lady Ayuyus to a 30-point win.

Kagman shut out Southern in the first seven minutes of the game to take a commanding 17-0 lead. The Lady Ayuyus never looked back from thereon, despite Southern's much improved offensive game in the second half.

Southern was held to three points in the first period and four in the second canto before making 28 points in the second half.

After a hot start, the Lady Ayuyus slowed down in the next three periods, but their big 22-3 after the first quarter was enough to give them their third win in four games.

Girls

KHS 65 – Repeki 20, Mesa 18, Diaz 10, Yvo. Bennett 5, Mizutani 4, Aldan 4, Hofschneider 3, Faisao 2.

SSHS 35 – Sikyang 8, Babauta 6, Joseph 6, Mendiola 5, Duenas 2, Maratita 2, Castro 2, Flores 2, Kim 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-3, 34-7, 51-23, 65-35.

Boys

KHS 65 – Brel 14, Camacho 2, Iguel 12, Ogumoro 11, Pangelinan 6, Concepcion 4, Lisua 2, Manglona 2.

SSHS 52 – Kiyoshi 18, Iglecias 11, Beltau 6, Santos 6, Ajoste 5, Echon 4, Masga 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-11, 25-27, 43-40, 65-42.

FIBA

From Page 36

player, coach, executive, and referee. He has officiated the finals of the Olympic Games, the World, European and other continental Championships, as well as European Club competitions. Right now, he is in charge of overseeing the training, selection, and conduct of FIBA referees.

"A FIBA International Referee is licensed to officiate at FIBA World Championships and Olympic Games (although there is no guarantee that a qualified referee will be invited)," Smith said.

The FIBA Oceania secretary general is hoping that more referees in the Pacific will get certification as FIBA International Referee. The CNMI has one in Gabriel White.

"It is hoped as a result of the clinic in June on Saipan to qualify more Pacific Island officials as FIBA International Referees," Smith said.

The clinic and the FIBA Oceania Congress are only side events for the June affair, as the 22 members of the zone will be focusing on the basketball tournament.

The Oceania caging will feature eight teams each from the men's and women's divisions with the CNMI automatically gaining entry to the tournament being the host country.

New Zealand and Australia are also shoe-ins leaving only five slots to the 19 other members. Guam and Palau are likely to make the list, too due to their proximity to Saipan.

Games in the Oceania caging will be played at the Marianas High School Gymnasium and the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with the latter scheduled to undergo a major renovation to meet the FIBA Oceania standard.

DCCA

From Page 36

one homerun each in the first and second, respectively. Sakisat was 3-for-4, including one double and three RBIs and had four runs. Dela Cruz was also 3-for-four, had three runs and four RBIs.

The other DCCA players who contributed well in offense were Craig Sanchez (4AB, 3R, 3H, 1 triple, 2RBI), Julian Camacho (3AB, 3R, 3H, 1 double, 3RBI), Jun Saralu (4AB, 3R, 2H, 1 double, 3RBI), Ben Tagabuel (4AB, 2R, 3H, 1RBI), Bob Lizama (4AB, 1R, 2H), Jonathan Tenorio (4AB, 2R, 4H, 3RBI), James Fleming (3AB, 1R, 2H, 1RBI, 1BB), and Bill Limes (3AB, 1R, 2H, 1RBI).

The scorers for Hopwood were Fred Salavaria and Frank Angel in the first, while Alex Sablan, Ronald Gabionza, and Edi Cabrera came up with one each in the third.

John Pialur singled in the third that sent three runners, Sablan, Gabionza, and Cabrera to home plate.

DCCA had a 5-2 lead after the first full inning when all 11 runners that went to bat scored for a 16-2 advantage.

The team then exploded again with 11 runs in the top of the third, while Hopwood managed only three runs in the bottom of third and the referees declared DCCA the outright winner.

DLNR 7, Law & Order 0

In the second game, DLNR picked up its sixth win in 11 outings and climbed from 11th to ninth place in the overall team standings.

DLNR won via forfeiture against Law & Order, which showed up with only eight players.

The loss was Law & Order's eighth in 11 starts and it slipped to 13th position, joining Commonwealth Health Center and Public School System in a triple tie with 3-8 records.

Mayor's 16, CHC 7

Mayor's Office successfully sustained its explosive start to score the night's lone upset victory at the expense of CHC, 16-7.

The win was Mayor's Office second and is now 2-10 but stayed 19th place in the 11-team field tournament.

SPORTS BRIEFS

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	38	9	.809	_
Philadelphia	22	22	.500	14 1/2
New York	20	25	.444	17
New Jersey	20	26	.435	17 1/2
Toronto	19	28	.404	19

Southeast Division

Orlando	34	10	.773	_
Atlanta	26	19	.578	8 1/2
Miami	25	19	.568	9
Charlotte	19	27	.413	16
Washington	9	36	.200	25 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	35	8	.814	_
Detroit	25	19	.568	10 1/2
Milwaukee	22	27	.449	16
Chicago	19	27	.413	17 1/2
Indiana	18	28	.391	18 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	30	14	.682	_
New Orleans	28	14	.667	1
Houston	28	19	.596	3 1/2
Dallas	26	19	.578	4 1/2
Memphis	11	34	.244	19 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	30	16	.652	_
Portland	28	17	.622	1 1/2
Utah	25	21	.543	5
Minnesota	16	28	.364	13
Oklahoma City	11	35	.239	19

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	35	9	.795	_
Phoenix	25	18	.581	9 1/2
Golden State	14	32	.304	22
L.A. Clippers	10	35	.222	25 1/2
Sacramento	10	37	.213	26 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Indiana 107, Milwaukee 99
Toronto 107, New Jersey 106
Boston 119, Sacramento 100
New York 112, Atlanta 104
Miami 93, Washington 71
Detroit 98, Minnesota 89
New Orleans 94, Denver 81
Oklahoma City 114, Memphis 102, OT
Philadelphia 95, Houston 93
Dallas 117, Golden State 93
Portland 88, Charlotte
Chicago 95, L.A. Clippers 75

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Men's Division

DCCA	12	0
CPA	9	1
Freedom Air	8	1
No Zone	8	2
Legislature	8	4
Joeten Motors	7	3
Beach Boys	7	3
Docomo	6	4
DLNR	6	5
P & S	5	4
POI	5	5
DEQ/CRM	5	5
CUC	3	7
Law & Order	3	8
CHC	3	8
PSS	3	8
PIC	2	7
Customs	2	8
Mayors	2	10
Hopwood	0	11

Women's Division

NMC	8	1
DCCA	4	4
Finance	3	4
CUC	3	4
CHC	1	6

MISO STANDINGS

Boys

MHS	2	0
KHS	2	1
SSHS	0	3

Girls

MHS	3	0
KHS	3	1
MCS	1	2
SSHS	0	4

Budweiser caging resumes tonight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a month-long lull, the 2008-2009 BANMI-Budweiser Basketball League will resume action tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The league opened the season last Dec. 18, but quickly took a break to give way to the holiday celebration.

The Ol'Aces and the Docomo Hoopaholics started the hostilities in the league with the former eking out an 81-76 victory. In the second game, IT&E won over the Runnin' Rebels.

The league was supposed to reopen first week of this month, but the teams' failure to submit requirements forced organizers to push back the resumption of the annual caging.

Tonight, three teams are scheduled to debut when the former Bud Cup returns to action.

Quichocho Law Office will battle the Diamond Auto Fixers in the first game at 6:30pm, while the CNMI Nationals will challenge the Ol'Aces in the second match at 8pm.

The CNMI Nationals, which is composed of the core of the CNMI Junior Nationals, are joining the Budweiser caging to prepare for the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament.

The CNMI will be hosting the Oceania caging in June and the Commonwealth's bets will be playing against the powerhouse teams of Australia and New Zealand and five other squads from the FIBA Oceania Zone.

Calling the shots for the CNMI Nationals is veteran coach Rufino Aguon, who currently has 11 players in the pool.

The list includes Jayvan Tarkong, Marvin Rabauliman, Jomary Tumaquip, Joseph White, Allen Moses, James Camacho, Jericho Cruz, Keoni Chariton, Quincy Johnson, Pete Iguel, and Ringo Reyes.

After the Budweiser Basketball League, BANMI is planning to host a goodwill tournament that will feature some of the teams in the Budweiser caging, the CNMI Nationals, and Guam, also as part of the preparations for the Oceania caging.

Budweiser caging will have a double-round robin format in the regular season and single-round elimination in the playoffs. The championship will be a best-of-three affair.

Games will be played every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Rock Steady, which is composed of the core of the CNMI National team that played in the 2006 Micronesian Games, won last season's championship. Members of Rock Steady are now playing for different teams.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ol'Aces' Freddie Pelisamen, left, goes up for a shot against Docomo's Ryan Sanciangco during the opening of the Budweiser caging last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Triathlon group sets events for 1st quarter

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members of Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation are seen here participating in last year's Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle. This season, NMITF members will be busy with various activities set for the first quarter of 2009.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation will have a busy schedule in the first four months of 2009, as the club aims to get more people involved in the sport and promote fitness.

NMITF president Russ Quinn said they will kick off the 2009 season with the first Enticer Triathlon next month. The Enticer is set for Feb. 8 and will begin at 7am at the Pau Pau Beach Pavilion. The event will feature a 500-meter swim, a bike leg from Pau Pau to Banzai and back, and a 1.5-mile run.

"It will not take an individual more than an hour to complete the course. Teams are welcome," Quinn said.

Registration fee for the Enticer is $10 for NMITF members and $15 for non-members.

Other events NMITF scheduled for the first quarter of the year are the Leap Frog Race, Enticer Triathlon 2 and OREXTERRA.

The Leap Frog Race, which is a unique event, as a team shares one bicycle and individuals alternate between running and biking, is set for Feb. 15.

The second Enticer on March 1 is still scheduled at Pau Pau Beach, but will have a longer course, while OREXTERRA will be held on March 15 as a warm up for the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championships.

"This is an off-road triathlon that has a unique start. The swim is first, and optional. Once all swimmers are done and ready for the mountain bike portion of the race, a mass start of riders takes place. The race finishes after a scenic trail run," Quinn said.

Before the two events in March, Quinn is encouraging NMITF members to participate in the 2009 Jazy Cup Tour De Marianas Bike Race, which will be held on Saipan on Feb. 21 and 22.

"Besides these events there are several fun activities that are sprinkled in between, such as orienteering courses (learning how to use a compass and map while trying to find check points), duathlons (run, bike, run Races), night time rides (needs lights), ladies rides, movie nights, hiking, and training clinics," the NMITF president said.

Frank Sablan is January Ace

Frank Sablan welcomed 2009 with a bang after winning the Amigos Club of Saipan's January Ace last Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Sablan carded a net score of 68 last weekend and that, combined with the 69 he shot last Jan. 11 during the qualifier, gave him a two-round total of 137.

Joe Sablan Sr. and John Guerrero were hot on Frank Sablan's heels but came four strokes short with an identical total of 141. Rounding out the Top 4 was lady golfer Sherlyn Jones, who managed a 145.

The club is planning to hold a best-ball format tournament on Feb. 1 at the Marianas Country Club.

The revived Amigos Golf Club is led by president Ed Manglona and vice president Joe Sablan Jr. Other officials are: secretary Terry Attao; treasurer Lorraine Babauta; public information officer Pete Leon Guerrero, and tournament director Syl Ada.

Its board of directors include Ben Jones, Manny Blas, Joe Lizama, Frank Guerrero, Joe Tudela, and John M. Guerrero.

According to its website (www.amigosgolf.webs.com), the mission of the Amigos Golf Club is to foster friendship and camaraderie between friends, both men and women, who share the passion for the game of golf.

It said the new club is a spinoff of the old Amigos Club, but continues to be a venue for fellowship between friends or amigos.

The club plays every Sunday in accordance with the schedule, except when prevented by other conflicting events. Club members vie for the coveted monthly ace which is determined by the best net score between the qualifying game and the ace game held during each month.

Amigos Golf Club also holds an annual Ace of Aces Tournament that expects to crown the Club Champion from among the 12 monthly aces.

Its motto is: "Play hard and play fair." ***(PR)***

Miyachi, Shimizu to defend titles in Coffee Trail Run

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The male and female winners of last year's inaugural Marianas Coffee Trail Run are expected to defend their titles when the second edition of the race from Micro Beach to Mt. Tapochao and back returns tomorrow, Jan. 31.

The total number of runners last year was 38, including competitors from Guam and Japan. Organizers said they hope to draw about 50 runners this time, including Fujio Miyachi and Maimi Shimizu, who topped the men and women's divisions of the 12-kilometer trail run last year.

The course, estimated this year to be about 10 miles, will pass through some of the oldest coffee plants at the slopes of Saipan's highest peak.

Miyachi himself will aim to improve his time of 23 minutes and 31 seconds in this unique on-and-off road and up-and-down hill race.

Shimizu, who ruled the women's division and was the seventh overall finisher with a time of 1:43.49, will get a strong challenge from Mieko Carey, who was runner-up at 1:47.26.

Organizers said a total of 16 participants from Japan and five from Guam have already confirmed.

About 10 from the office of the organizing government agency, Marianas Visitors Authority, have also registered as of yesterday.

MVA's Frank Tudela and Ed Diaz said they hope to hit the target number of runners, hours before the start of the race.

Registration will start at 5:30am.

Major sponsors this year are Marianas Coffee Company, MVA, and Northern Marianas Athletics with the support of the Pacific Development, Inc. Other in-kind donors are Pacific Islands Club, Joshua Berger, Tyce Mister, and other MVA members.

Diaz said the course is very complicated to explain but said there will be a short course, which will go into two coffee plantation and a long course that will head up to Mt. Tapochao and down into Chuck Jordan's coffee plantation along with other plantation in conjunction with the short course.

"Some of the trails are from the XTERRA [Saipan Championship] and some are new. It's a good course and I am sure all the participants will enjoy it," he said.

Serena, Safina into Australian Open final

Serena Williams finally hit form to oust Olympic champion Elena Dementieva and move into her fourth Australian Open final. **32**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Budweiser caging resumes tonight

After a month-long lull, the 2008-2009 BANMI-Budweiser Basketball League will resume action tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. **35**

Kagman sweeps Southern

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kagman High School proved that its first win against Southern High School was no fluke after cruising to an impressive 65-52 triumph in their second meeting in the 2008-2009 MISO Basketball League Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

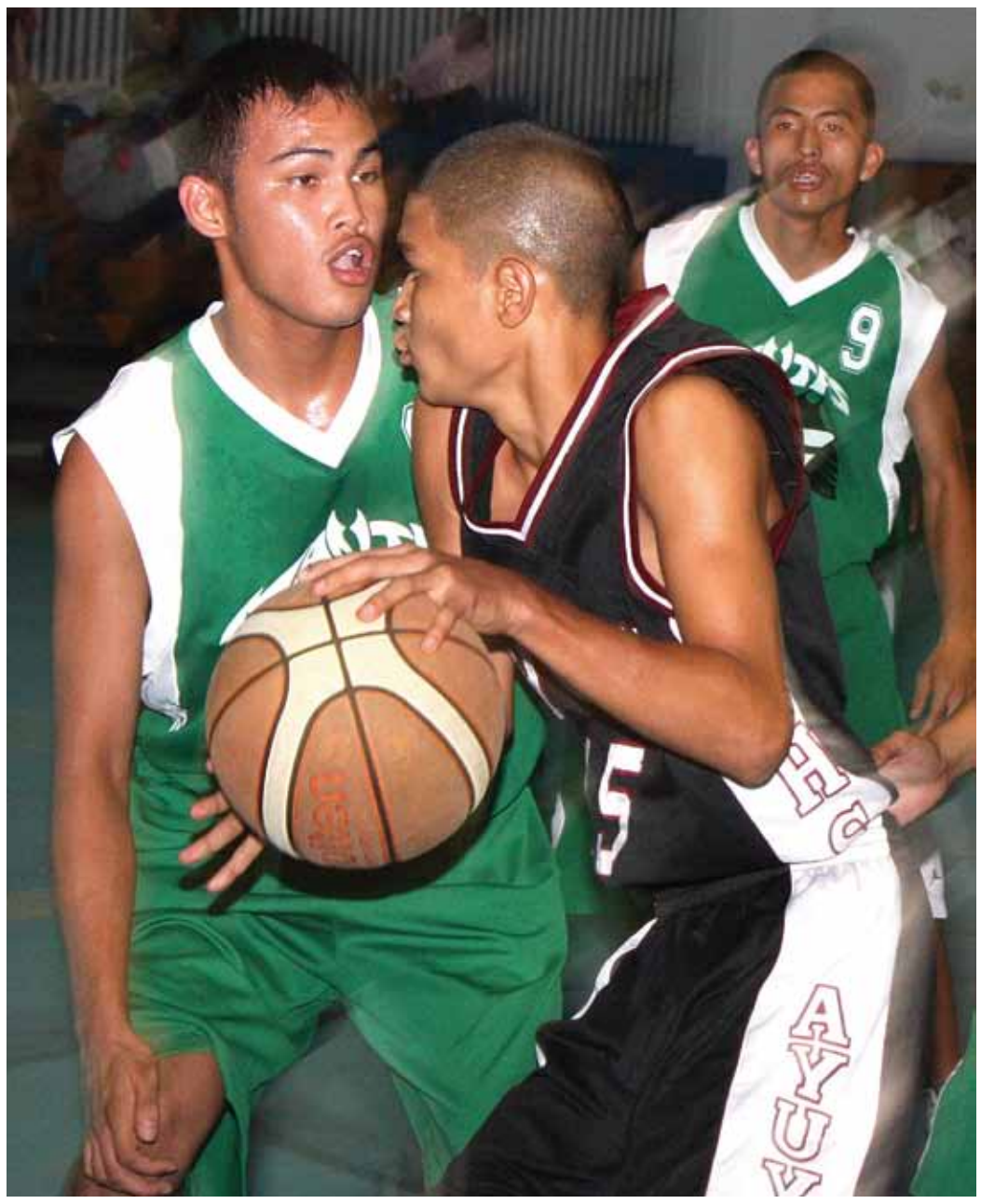
In the women's division, the Lady Ayuyus walloped the Lady Rays, 65-35, for a repeat of the former's 44-31 win in their first meeting.

Kagman's boys team defeated the defending champion Rays in the first outing, canning important free throws in the last one minute of the game en route to a close 59-57 victory.

In the second meeting, Kagman made sure the game will be in the bag early in the fourth period.

The Ayuyus were ahead by only three at the end of the third quarter, 43-40, when they

See KAGMAN on Page 34



Kagman's Kyle Concepcion, right, drives to the baseline against Southern's Nathan Flores during their first meeting in the MISO caging early this month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

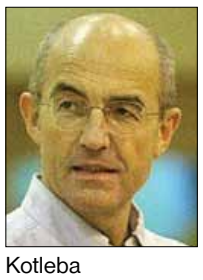
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

FIBA Oceania to also hold clinic, confab in June

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two more important events will take place in June when Saipan hosts the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament.

FIBA Oceania secretary general Steve Smith said besides hosting the regional caging, the CNMI will also be the venue for the FIBA Oceania Congress and a clinic for the International Licensing of FIBA International Referees.



Kotleba

Smith said that at the Congress, they will be electing the FIBA Oceania Board that will lead the organization for the next four years (2010-2014).

At the meeting, the board is expected to approve the activity program for the four-year period.

"The meeting will also sign off on the activity and financial reports for the 2005-2009 cycle," Smith said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

FIBA Oceania will be bringing in FIBA technical director Lubomir Kotleba on Saipan to conduct a clinic for the International Licensing of FIBA International Referees.

Kotleba, who is based in Geneva, Switzerland, is a former

See FIBA on Page 34

DCCA shows no mercy against Hopwood, 27-5

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

A batter of DLNR scores a single in this bit of action against Law & Order, which lost via forfeiture due to lack of needed players.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs won over Hopwood as expected on Wednesday night via a 27-5 mercy rule and further widened its lead in the 2008 Budweiser Inter-Government/Business Slow Pitch Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

DCCA finished the game in just three innings with all of its batters hitting and scoring at will, and the team is now 12-0 while Hopwood has yet to score its first win after 11 games.

The defending champions showed their dominance in all fronts with 41 against Hopwood's 19 at bat, 31-10 on hits, 3-0 on doubles, 1-0 on triples, 4-0 on homeruns, and 26-5 on RBIs.

Infielder Pete Tomokane was perfect on offense—four hits on four at bats, including two homeruns in the first and third, and five RBIs.

Pitcher Mel Sakisat and outfielder Joey Dela Cruz also fired

See DCCA on Page 34

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

More than a game

Sports are supposed to be fun, an outlet from the daily stress and grind we endure. Unfortunately for some folks, sports spills over to real life with its ugly underbelly upset by the harsh realities of working for a living, where it's not a game at all but there are losers and instead of a field, it's an unemployment office or worse, prison.

Two sports stories made the national news this week that sparked debate outside the sporting world: 1) Kentucky high school football coach Jason Stinson was charged for reckless homicide following the death of his player after practice; 2) Texas high school girls basketball coach Micah Grimes was fired following his 100-0 blowout of another school.

You know both men loved their jobs and had no intentions of this happening, never expected it. Now one needs a lawyer and the other needs a job.

In the case of the football coach, authorities took action after a six-month investigation. Witnesses report that the 15-year-old student wasn't allowed to drink water on a hot August day and collapsed. The suit claims coaches waited 20 minutes to call paramedics.

After too many high school football deaths from heat exhaustion, coaches should know better and make sure players are hydrated. Our high school football coach wouldn't let us drink water during practice but those were the old days. These are the new days. Everyone is supposed to wise up.

Interesting that authorities took so long to file charges when the basic facts were known right after it happened. Perhaps because they waited to finish interviewing close to 100 witnesses.

If you were on the jury, would you say the coach acted with reckless behavior? How ye vote?

I'm not sure what I would decide. Tough call.

In the Saipan Little League when a player gets hurt, they give him water. I never understood that but then there's lots of things I don't understand.

Does anyone really believe that there is a good reason to withhold water to a player in need? I don't know of any but that's not to say that other people don't honestly believe that it may be appropriate at times for disciplinary purposes.

If other coaches do it as an accepted coaching technique, then wasn't Stinson just doing what was expected of him? How is it reckless to do something commonly done?

Will this case change the rules of coaching? Will coaches need malpractice insurance?

However the jury goes, its tragedy on top of tragedy with no one winning anything, just a big loss all around: heartbroken mother and father, family and friends, and a devastated coach. No winners if he is guilty or not guilty. Doesn't matter. The boy is dead.

The case of the basketball coach running up the score brings back old sportsmanship arguments, but he wasn't fired for that; it was for not agreeing to the apology issued by the school president.

As a former coach, I would never run up the score but then I wouldn't complain if it happened to me. I certainly would never apologize for winning a game.

I wonder if it would have been such a big deal if the score had been 99-0. Something about the century number that catches people's attention.

But what I really don't understand is how a basketball team can go a whole game without scoring a single point. Usually in blowouts, the defense lets up and doesn't mind giving up some easy baskets.

That game should have never happened because it really was not a game at all, not a fair contest in the true competitive spirit of sport. But in the end it meant much more than a game; it cost a man his job.

At least Grimes isn't facing prison, instead he will probably get a better job by hooking up with a team that sorely wants to win.